

NATIONAL

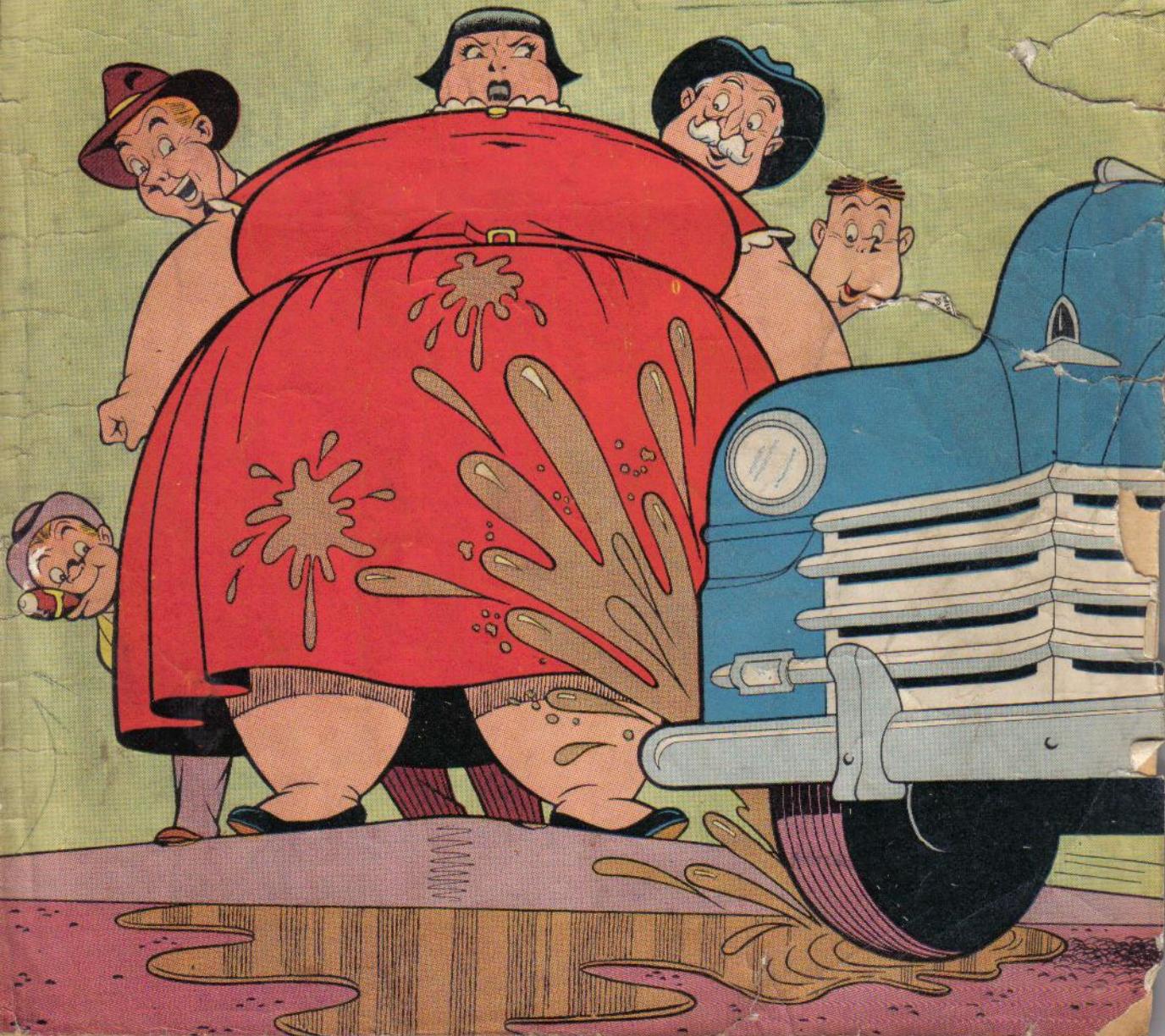
COMICS

AUGUST
No. 67

10c

The **BARKER**
debunks **THE CURSE of**
ALI BEN RIFF RAFF!

I don't want her you can't have
her she's too fat for me.



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

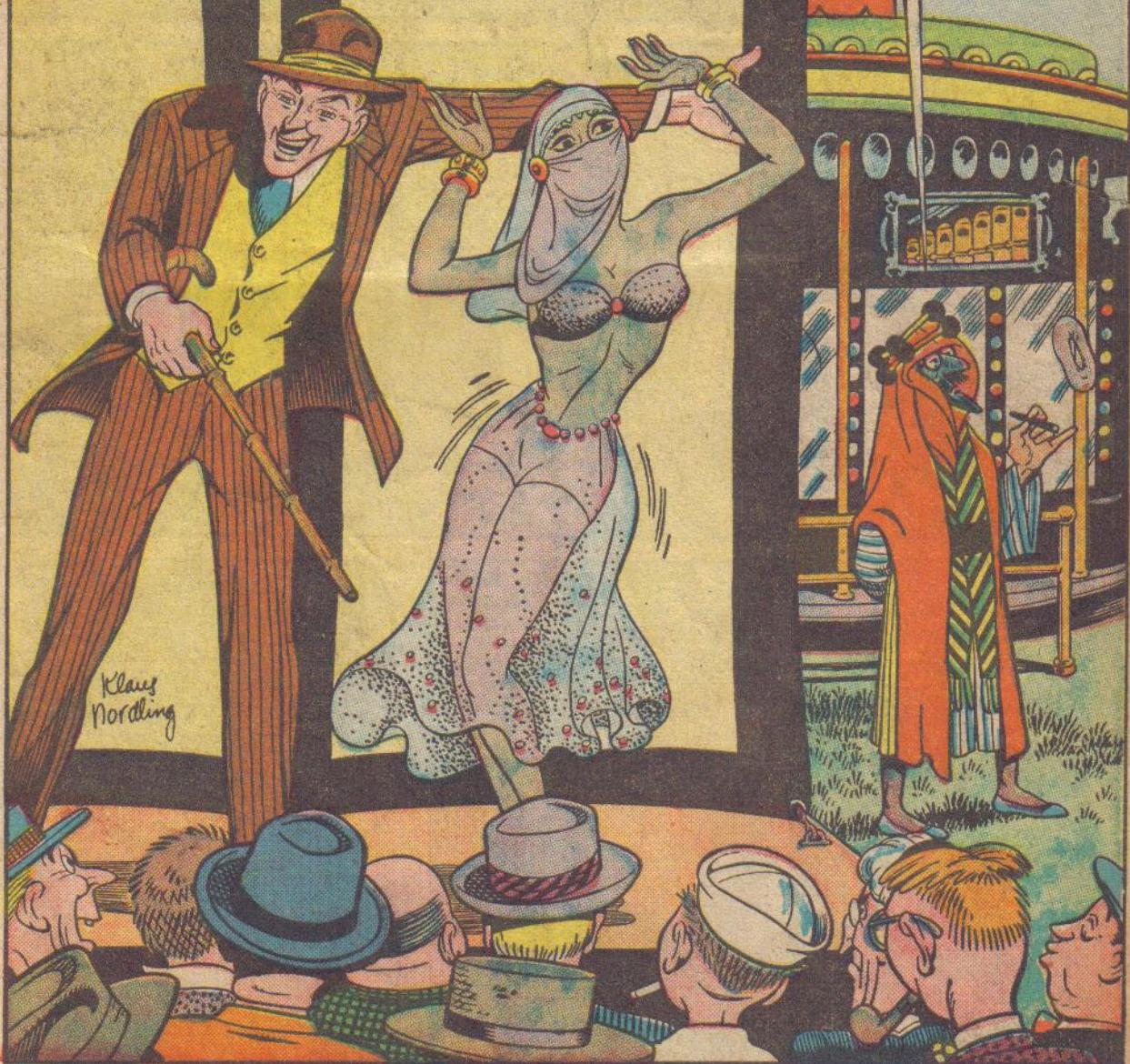


THE BARKER

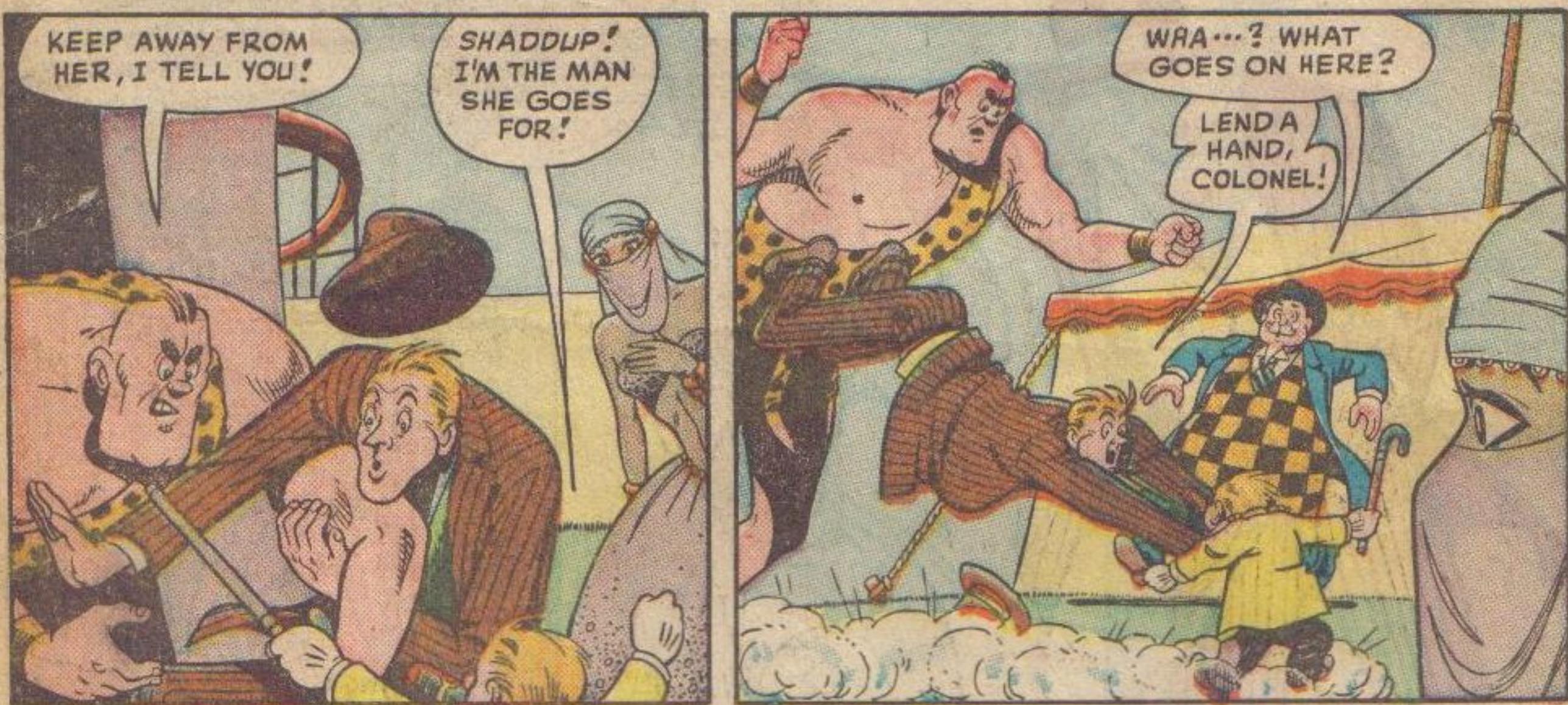
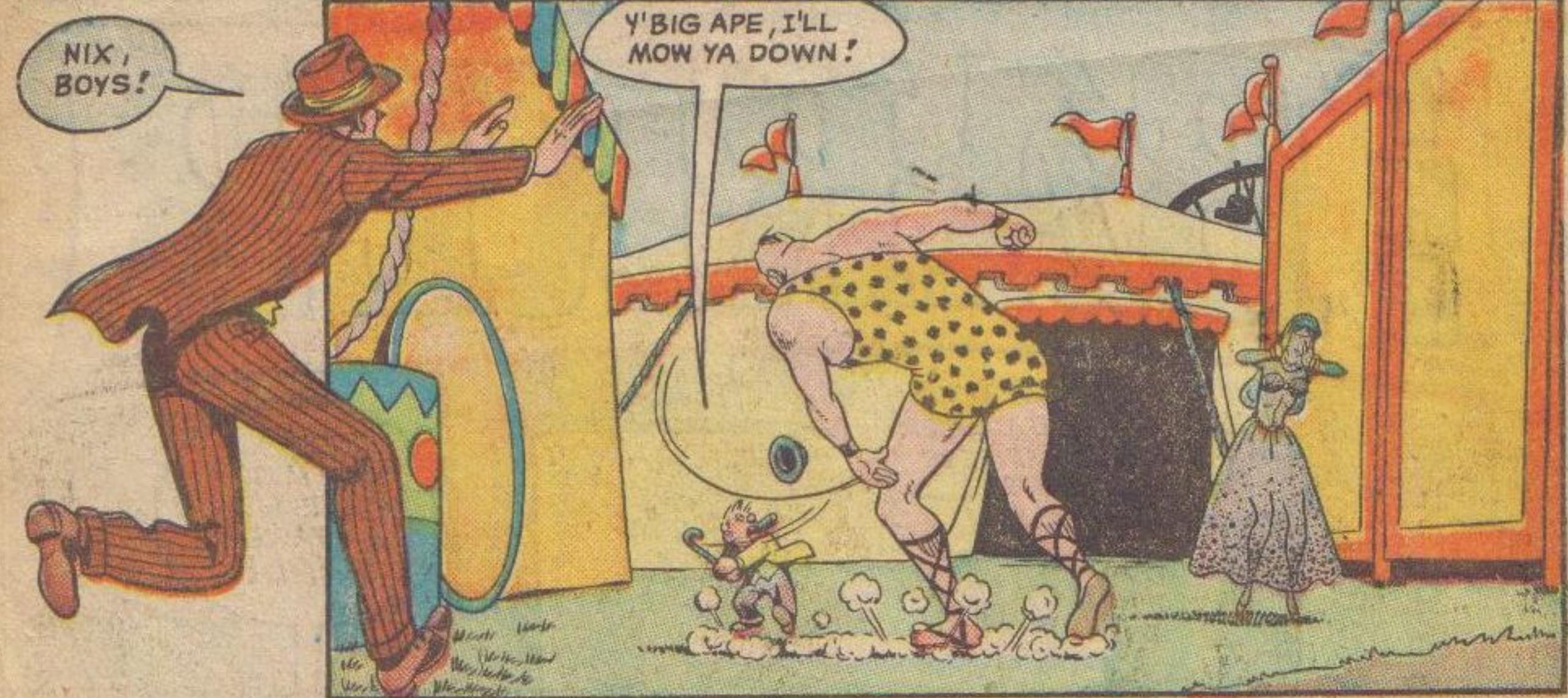
SHE'S SALAMO... THE
MOST EXQUISITE DANCER
IN THE WORLD... DIRECT
FROM A SULTAN'S
HAREM!

BAN!
THEY MIGHT
AS WELL SHOW
A TRAINED
SEAL!

Klaus
Nordling



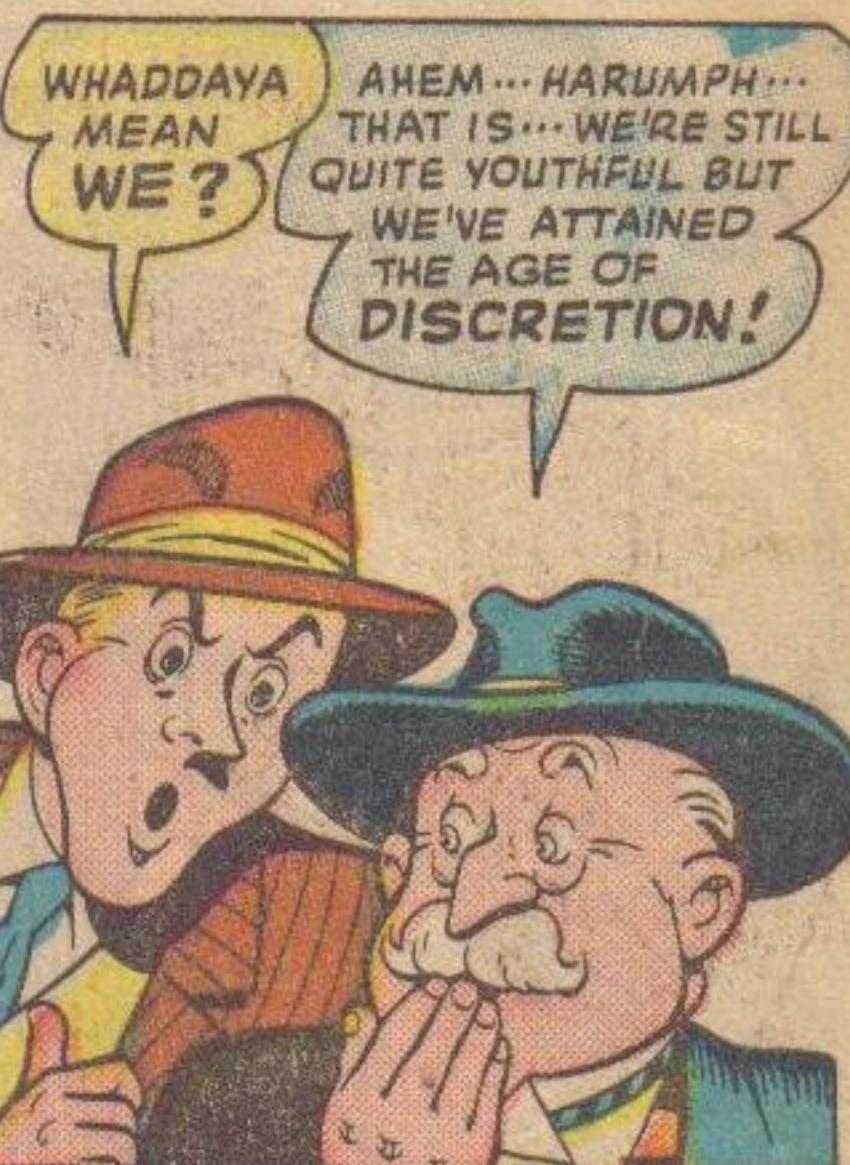
NATIONAL COMICS



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WELL, CARNIE, WE WERE YOUNG ONCE, TOO!

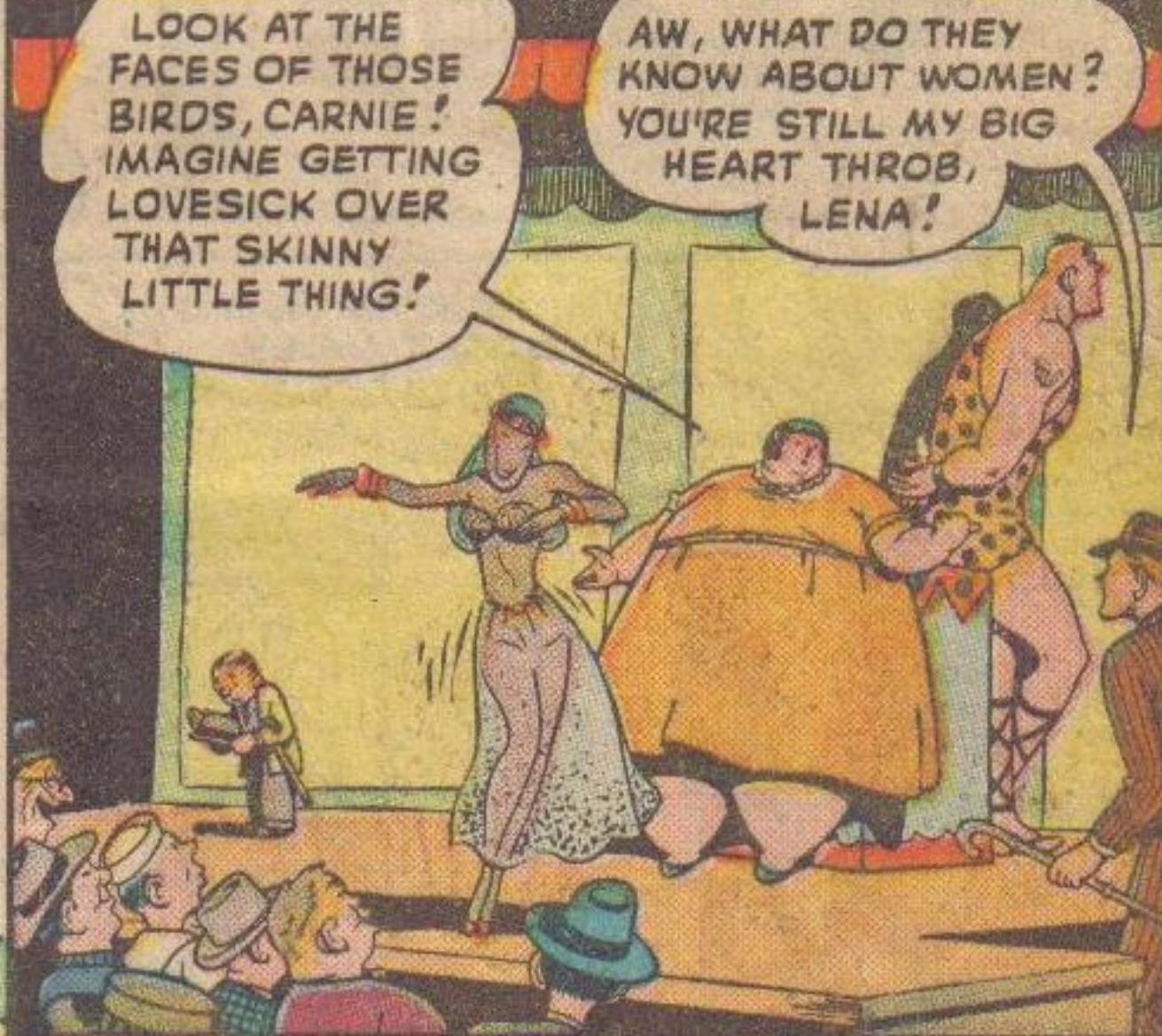


YOUNG ONCE? HOW D'YA LIKE THAT? JUST BECAUSE I DON'T GET ALL WOUND UP OVER SOME DOLL IN A PHONY HAREM RIG!

JEHOSHAPHAT! THE THINGS I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IN THIS BUSINESS! BRAWLING! DISPLAYS OF TEMPERAMENT! SOMETIMES I THINK I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY LONGER!

LOOK AT THE FACES OF THOSE BIRDS, CARNIE! IMAGINE GETTING LOVESICK OVER THAT SKINNY LITTLE THING!

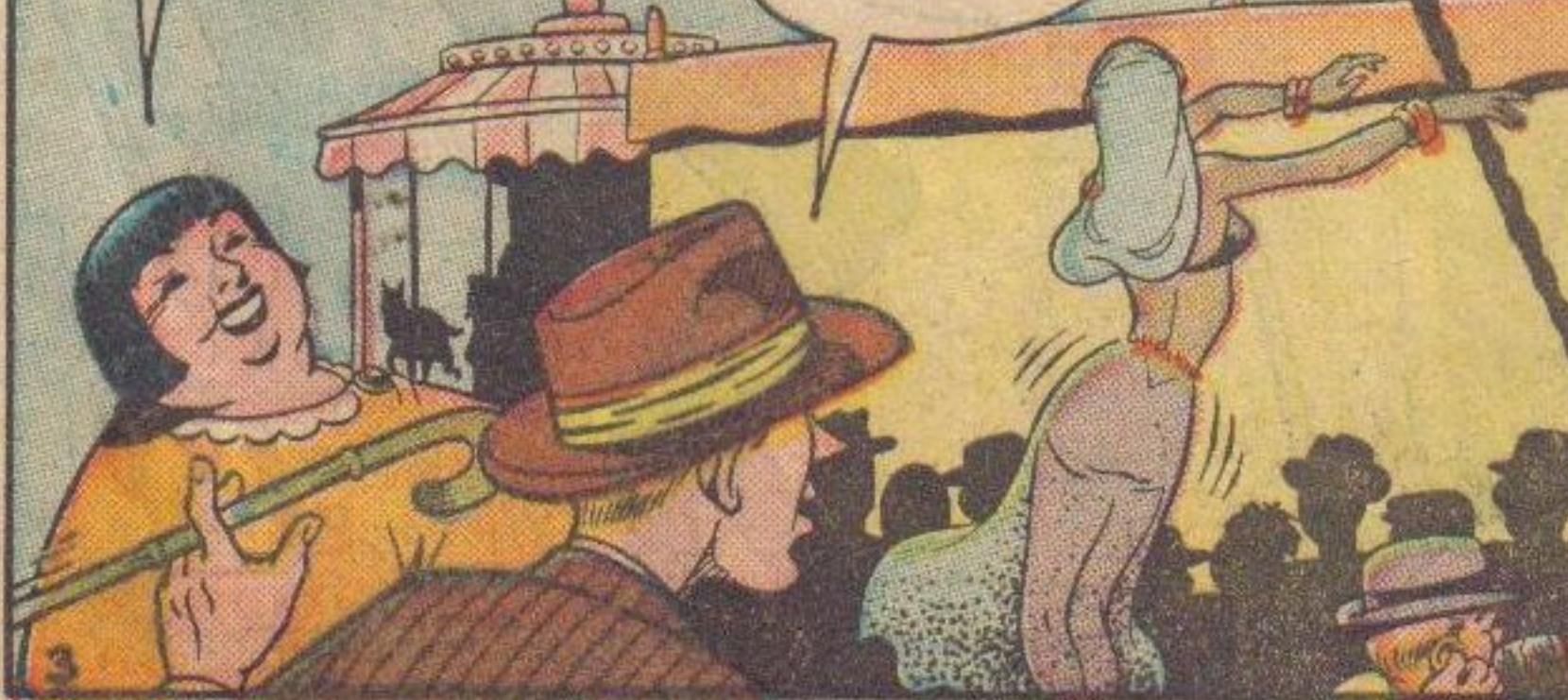
AW, WHAT DO THEY KNOW ABOUT WOMEN? YOU'RE STILL MY BIG HEART THROB, LENA!



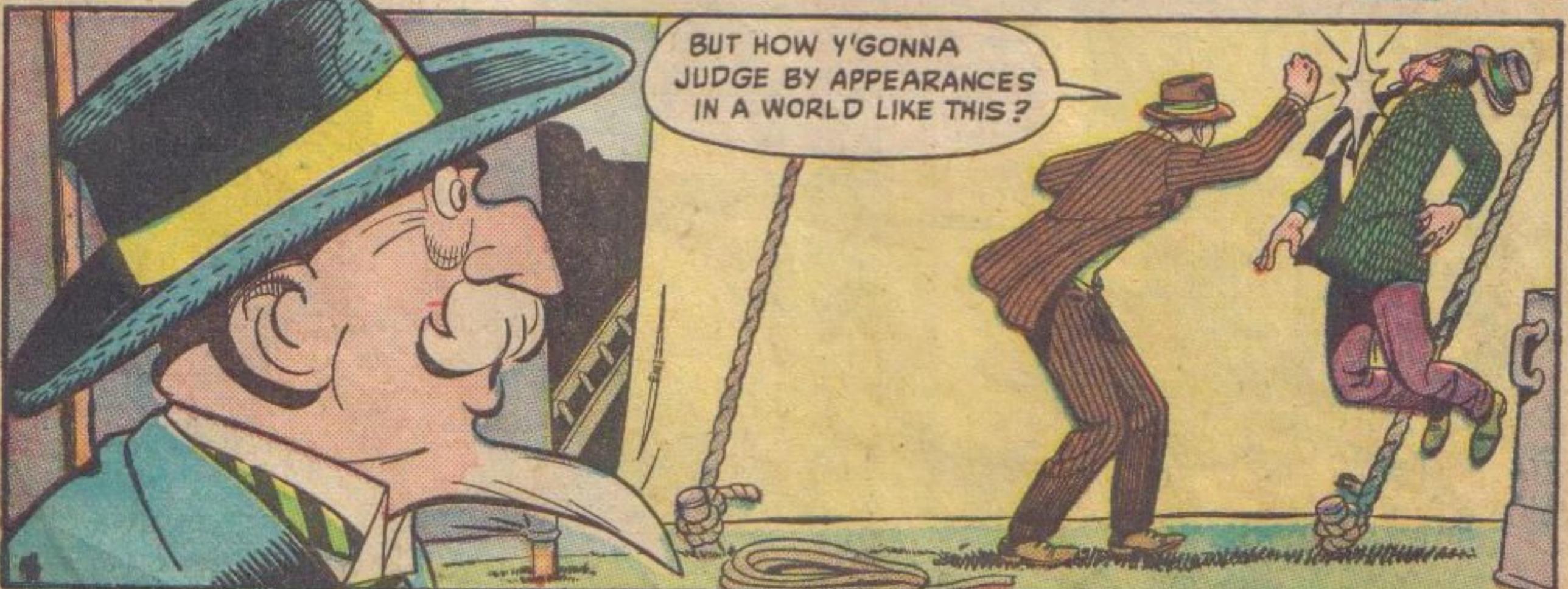
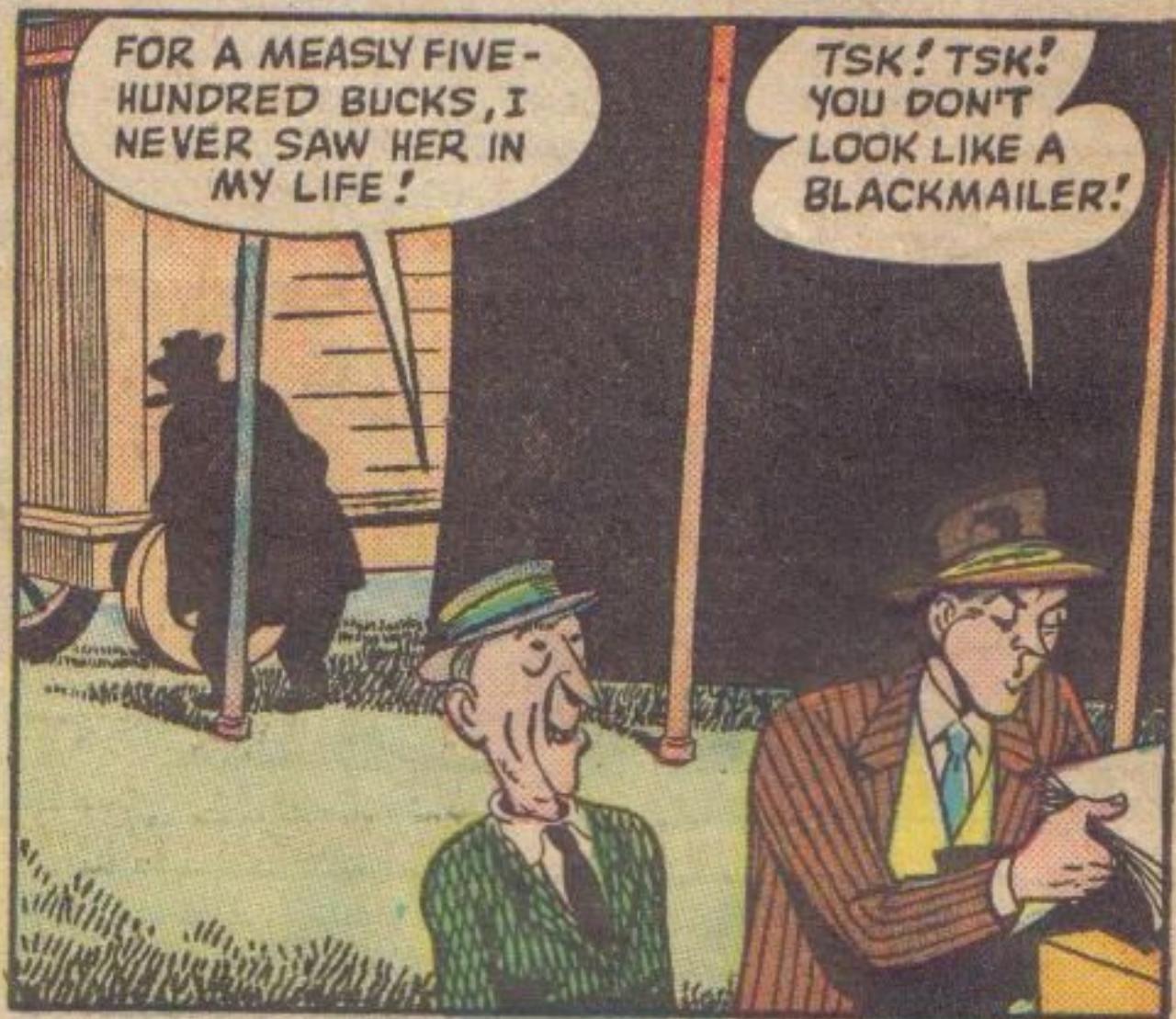
ALL I CAN SAY IS, MAYBE I CAN'T DANCE LIKE HER BUT A GAL LIKE ME IS MORE DEPENDABLE IN THE LONG RUN!

ONE THING ABOUT HER... SHE'S EASY ON MY VOICE! SHE GIVES THE RUBES MORE IDEAS ABOUT THIS CIRCUS THAN I CAN GET ACROSS IN A THREE-HOUR PITCH!

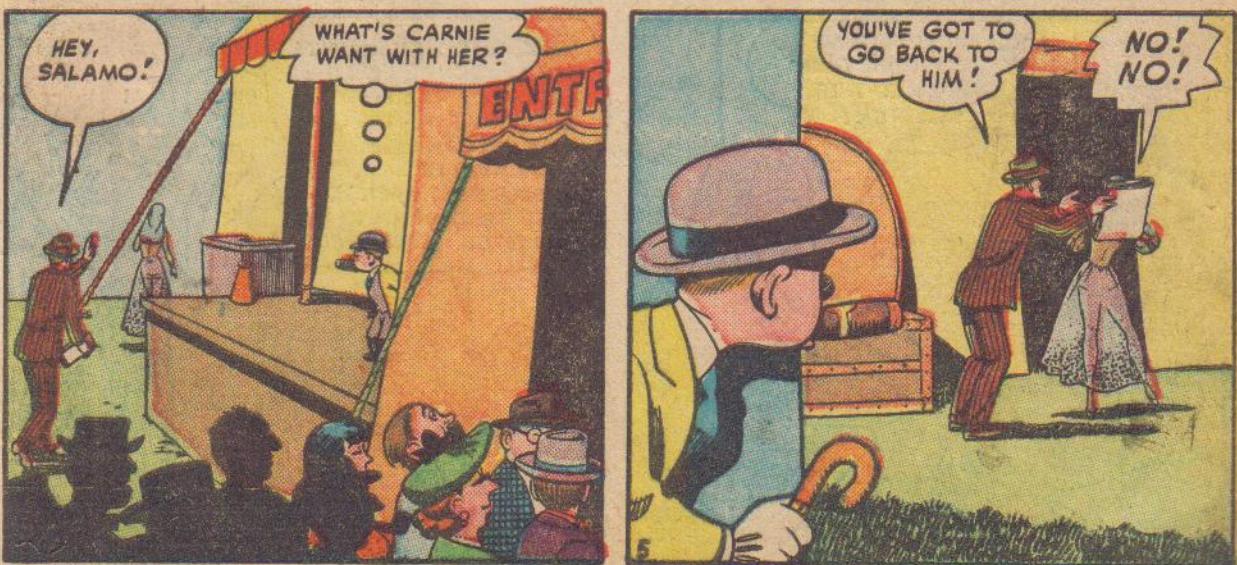
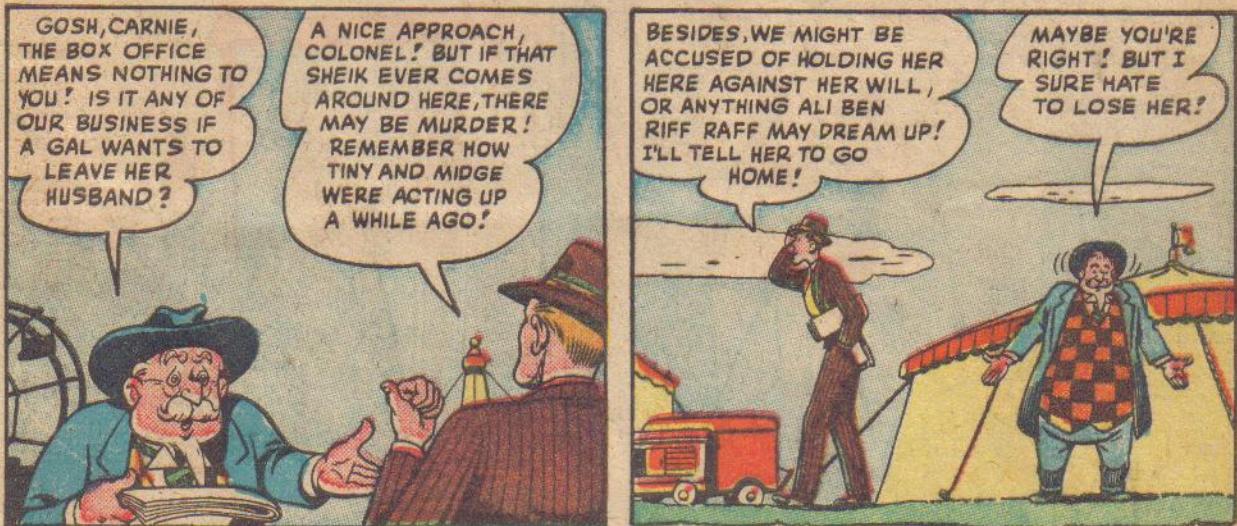
YEP! THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT!



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NATIONAL COMICS



NATIONAL COMICS

YOU DO NOT KNOW
WHAT IT IS LIKE! HE
IS A BEAST, A
FIEND!

I'M SORRY, SALAMO... IN THIS
COUNTRY YOU CAN ALWAYS GO
TO THE COPS IF HE GETS
ROUGH! BUT WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO HAVE ANY
TROUBLE!

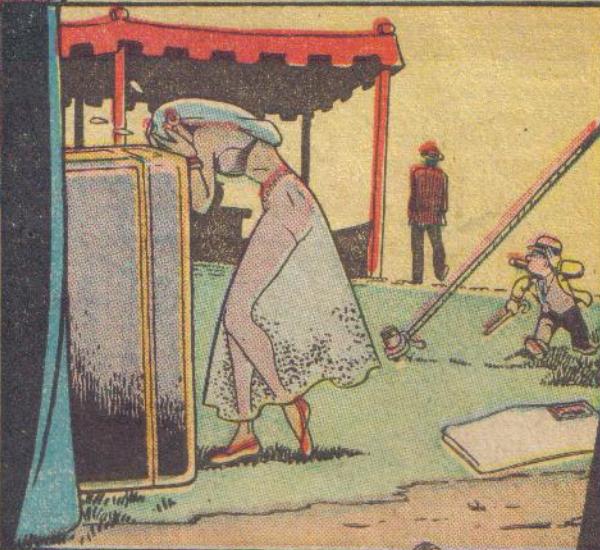
YOU CAN'T SEND ME BACK TO HIM! YOU
CAN'T! YOU
CAN'T!

I...I HATE
TO DO IT...
BUT...



THERE IS NO OTHER WAY,
SALAMO! BETTER GET
YOUR STUFF PACKED!

OH...IT IS
TOO CRUEL!



YOU MUST HELP ME!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN
GO BACK TO THAT
MONSTER!



WE'VE GOT TO SACRIFICE
OUR PERSONAL FEELINGS
AND STICK TOGETHER IN
THIS, TINY! IT'S THE ONLY
WAY WE CAN HELP
SALAMO FROM
BEING SENT BACK TO
THE SULTAN! YOU'VE GOT
TO PITCH IN, TOO, SPUDO!

SUITS
ME!



NATIONAL COMICS

WE MUST CONSECRATE
OUR LIVES TO SAVING
HER!

CHECK!

THE QUESTION
IS, WHERE'LL
WE HIDE HER?

IN ONE OF
THE PROPERTY
TRUCKS ... IT
WON'T BE USED
UNTIL THE CIRCUS
MOVES ON! WE
MAKE THE TRUCK
HOMELIKE FOR
HER AND BRING
HER MEALS
THERE! LET'S
GET HER
THINGS!

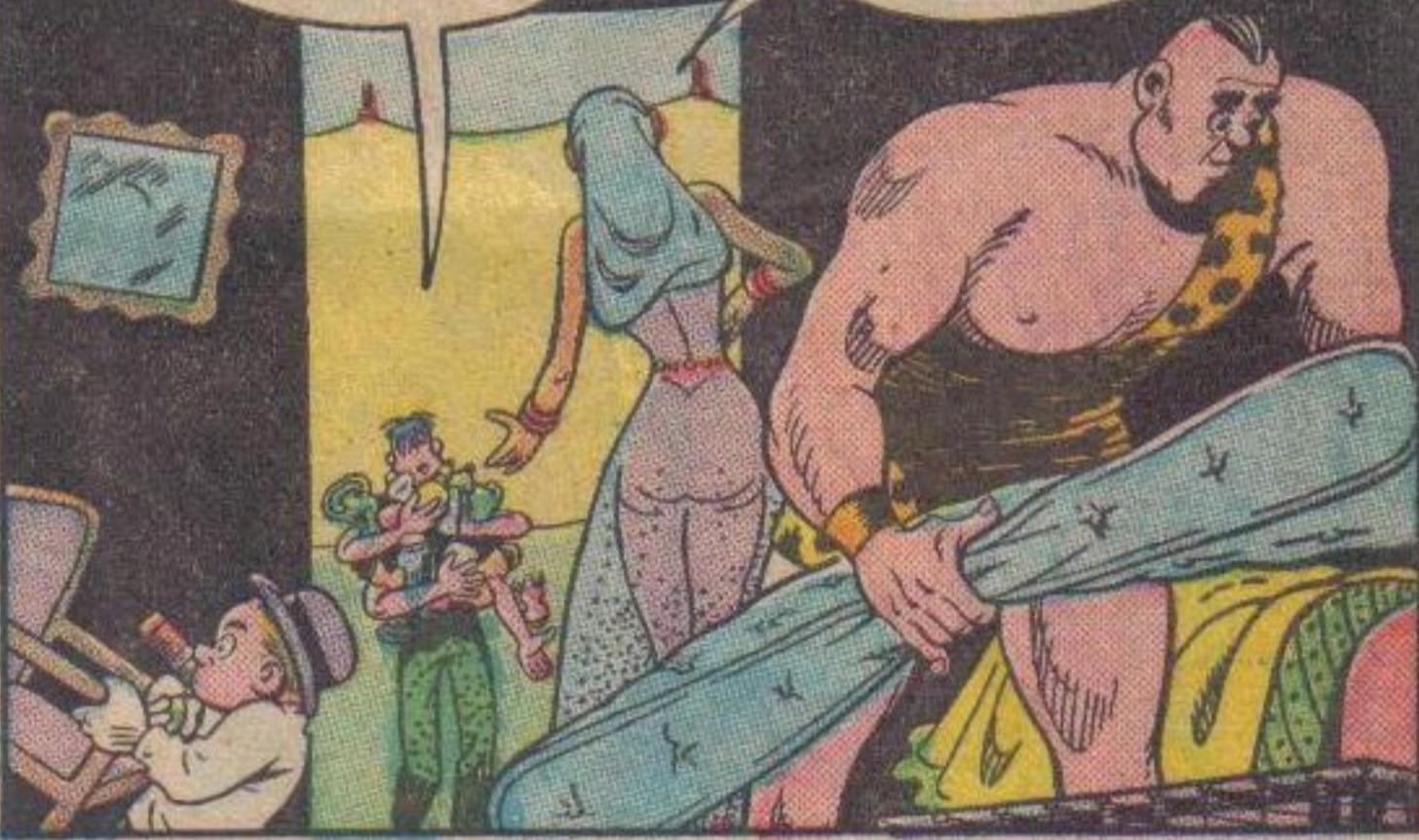
MY PERFUMES!
DID YOU BRING
THOSE?

I'LL GO
BACK FOR
THEM!

ONLY A GUY WITH
FOUR HANDS
COULD CARRY
ALL THESE!
WHAT DOES
SHE DO WITH
'EM ALL?

HERE THEY ARE, SALAMO ...
YOU SURE HAVE PLENTY OF
THEM, AND SOME OF THE
BOTTLES LOOK PRETTY
STRANGE!

NATURALLY, MY
PROTECTOR ... THEY
ARE THE EXOTIC
PERFUMES OF
THE EAST!



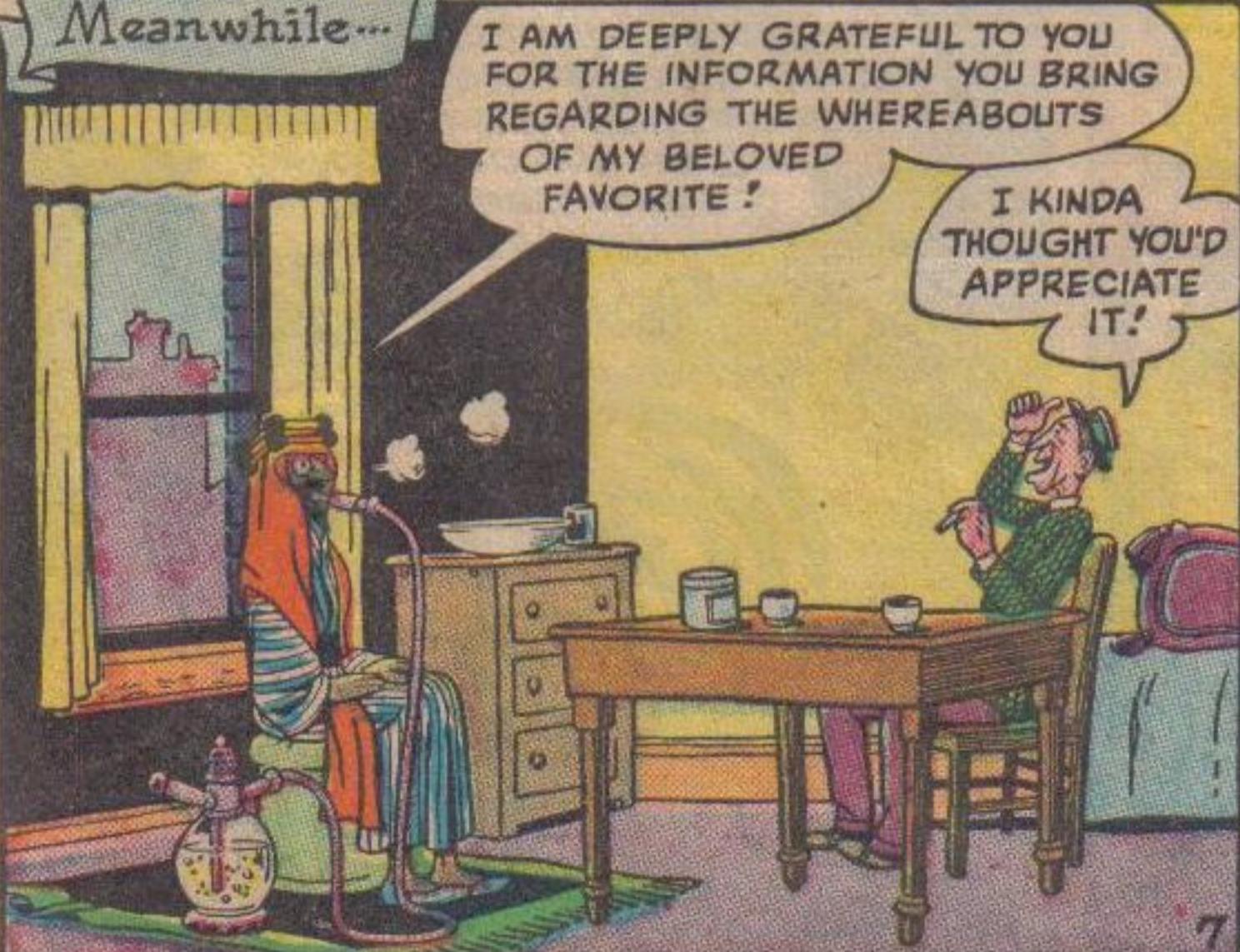
Meanwhile...

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU
FOR THE INFORMATION YOU BRING
REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS
OF MY BELOVED
FAVORITE!

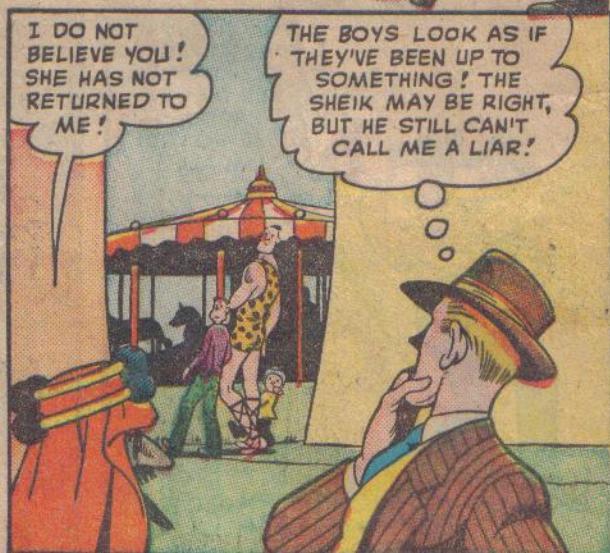
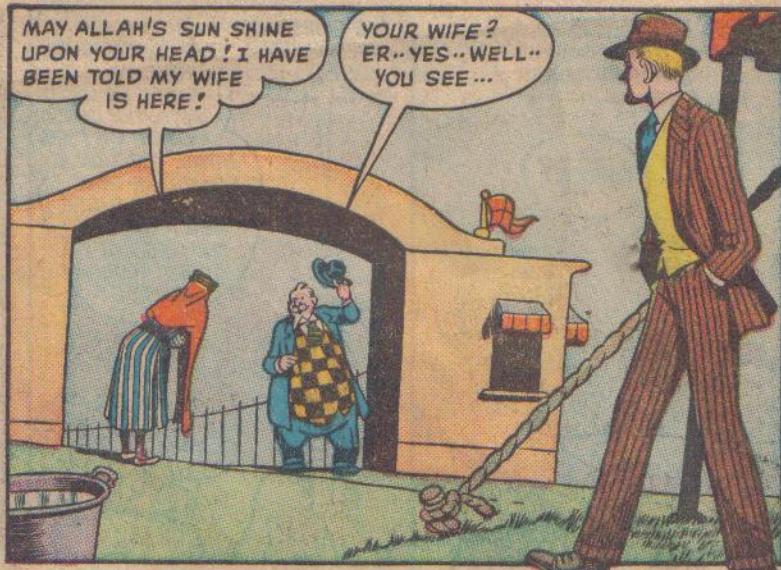
I KINDA
THOUGHT YOU'D
APPRECIATE
IT!

IN TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE, PLEASE
ACCEPT THIS REWARD OF TWENTY-
FIVE CENTS IN
SILVER!

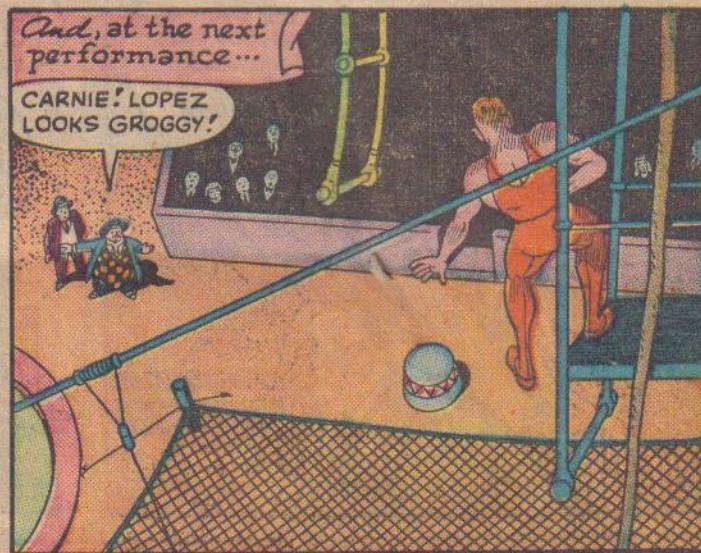
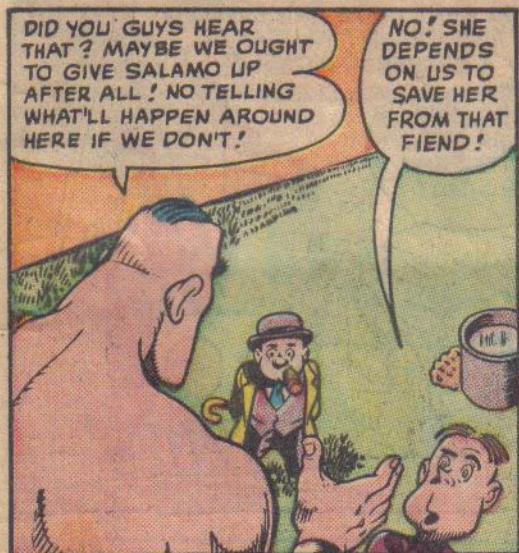
HUH?



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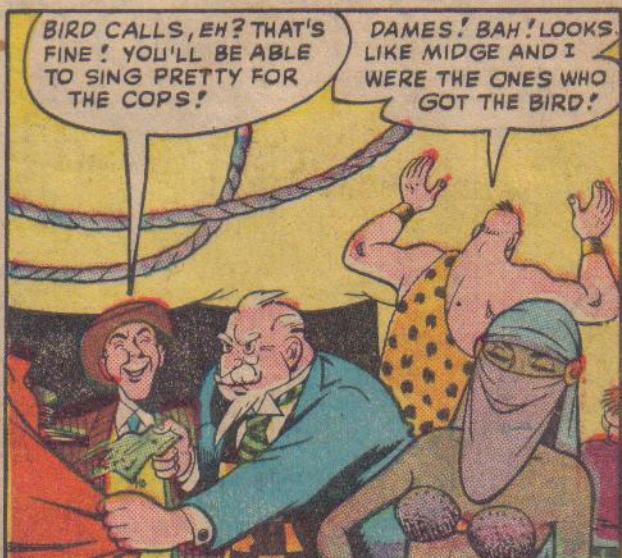
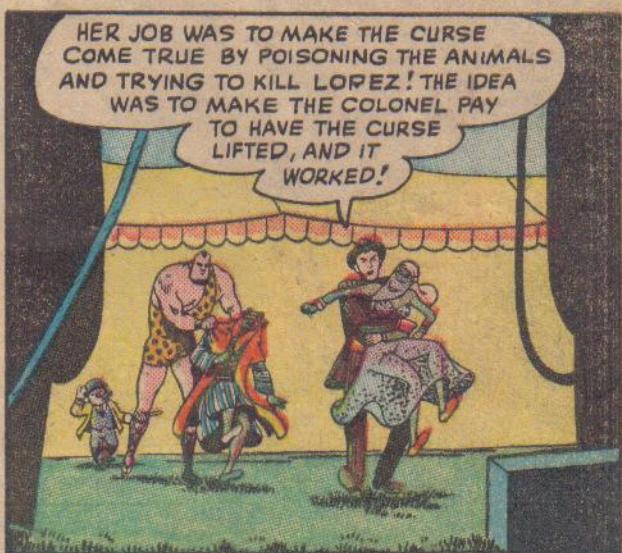


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NATIONAL COMICS



Salty Waters

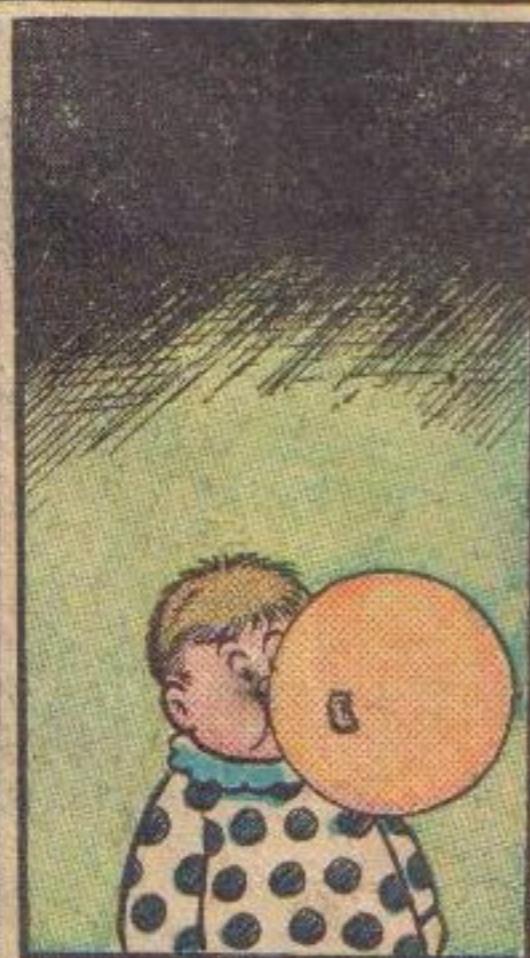
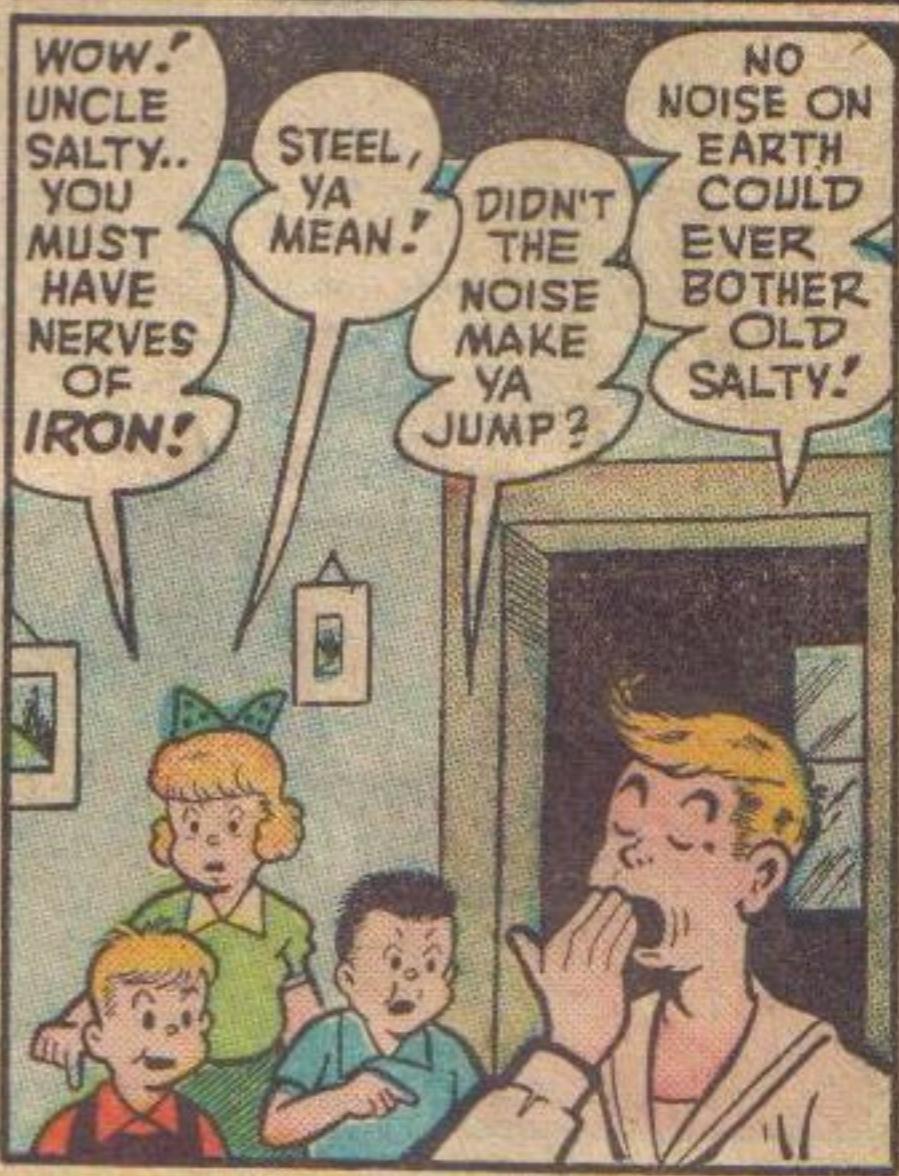
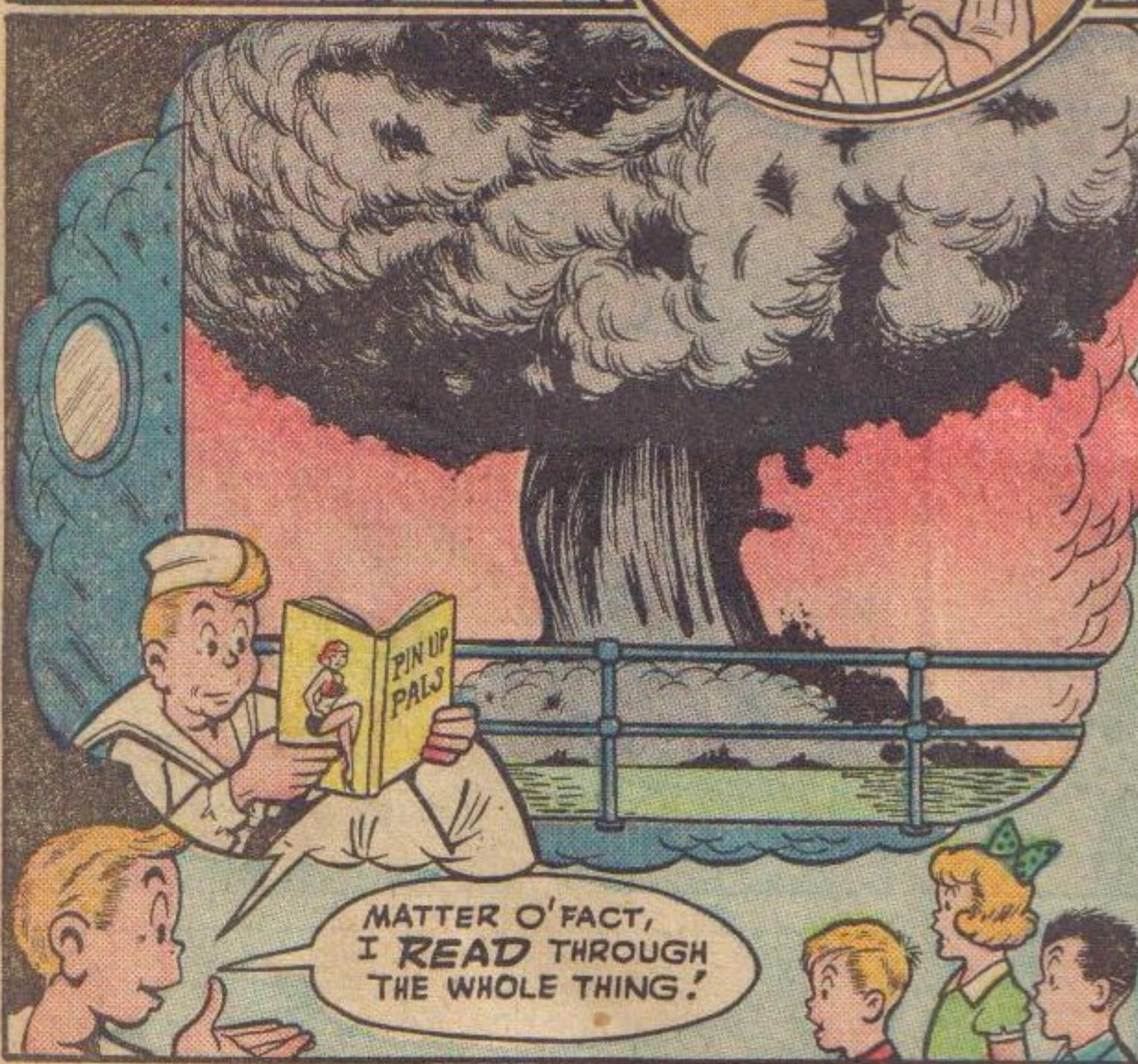
YOU WERE
REALLY THERE
WHEN IT WENT
OFF, UNCLE
SALTY?

WOW!
WEREN'T
YOU
SCARED?

THAT LAST BLAST AT
BIKINI WAS A FAIR-
TO-MIDDLIN' FIRE
CRACKER, BUT THE
DANGED THING
INTERFERED WITH A
POKER GAME WE
HAD PLANNED!

WHAT'S AN
ATOMIC BOMB TO
AN OLD SALT LIKE
ME?

SHUX,
NO!

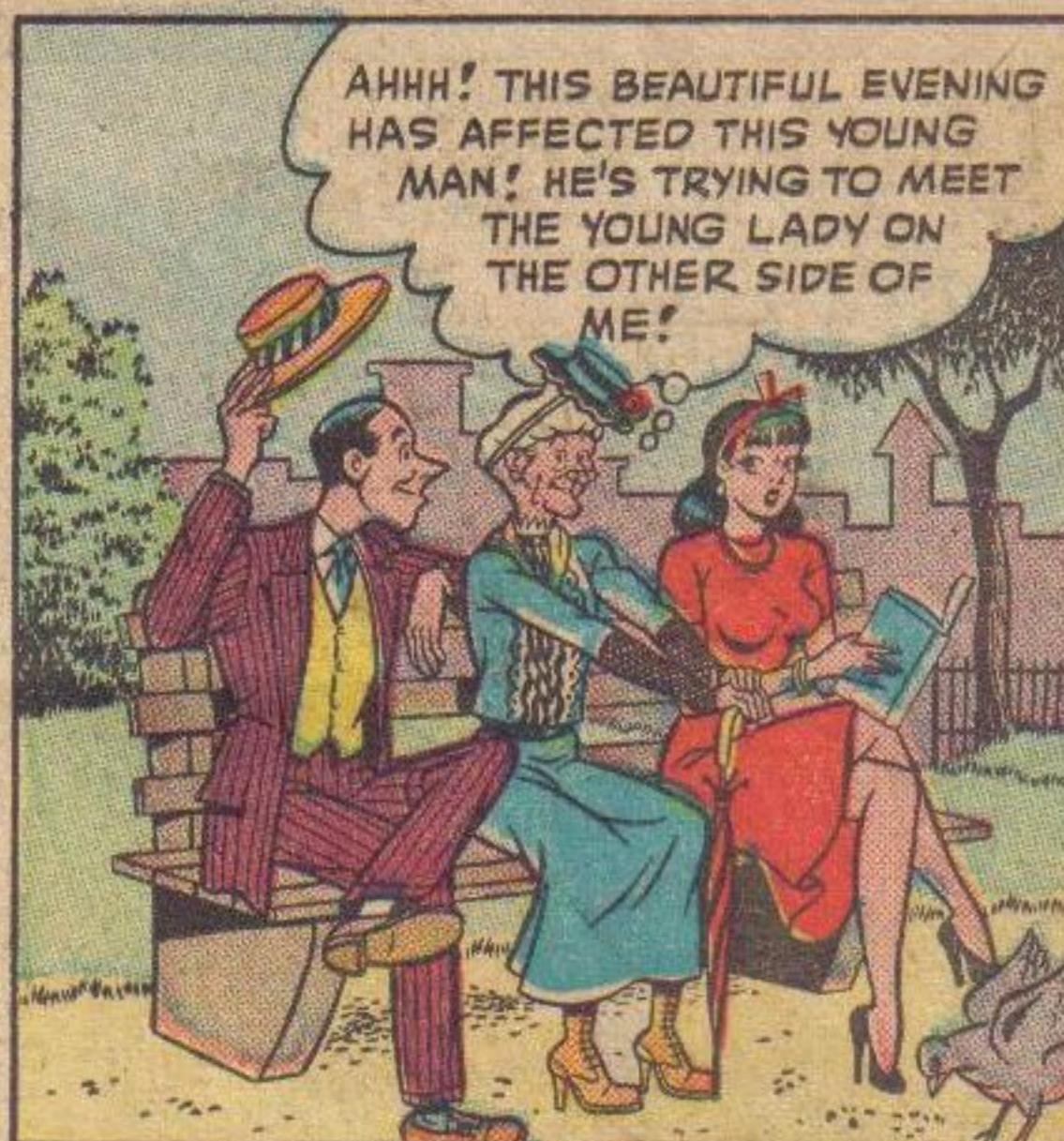


NATIONAL COMICS

GRANNY GUMSHOE

BUT I DON'T
WANT TO FALL
IN LOVE,
CUPID!

IT'S NOT YER HEART
I'M AFTER, LADY...
IT'S YER DOUGH!



I MUST BE IN LOVE!
LOOK! HERE COMES
CUPID!

AHHH!

CLUNK!

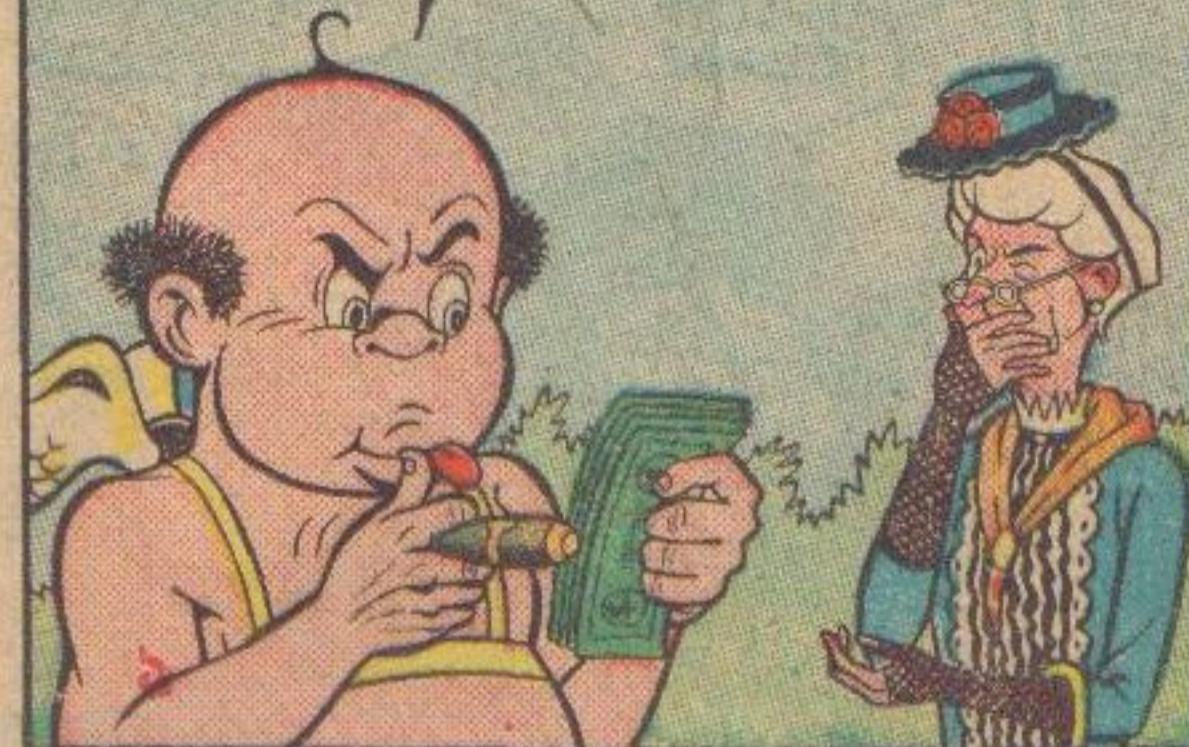


LOOK! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE CUPID...AND WHAT'S THE IDEA OF RIFLING THE YOUNG MAN'S POCKETS?

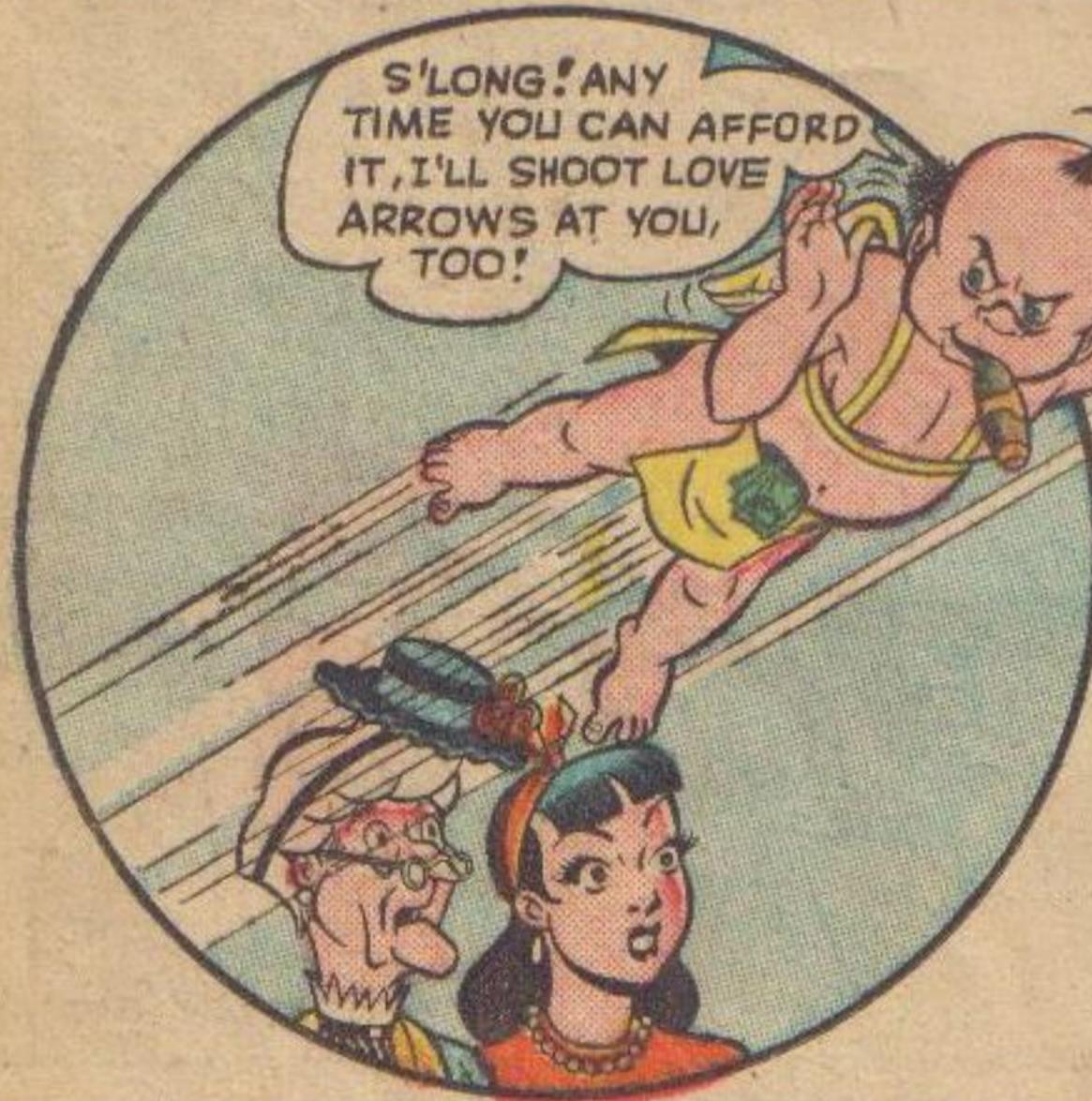


I GOTTA LIVE, TOO, LADY! PRICES ARE HIGH TODAY AN' WHEN I IMPART TH'SPIRIT OF LOVE TO SOMEONE, I'VE GOTTA GET MY FEE!

HMM...



S'LONG! ANY TIME YOU CAN AFFORD IT, I'LL SHOOT LOVE ARROWS AT YOU, TOO!



EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! CUPID BANDIT LOOTS TWO DOZEN LOVERS!



I'LL PUT A STOP TO THAT LITTLE SNIPE TOMORROW NIGHT! THERE'LL BE A FULL MOON AND THE PARK WILL BE RUNNING OVER WITH LOVERS! I'LL CATCH HIM THEN!

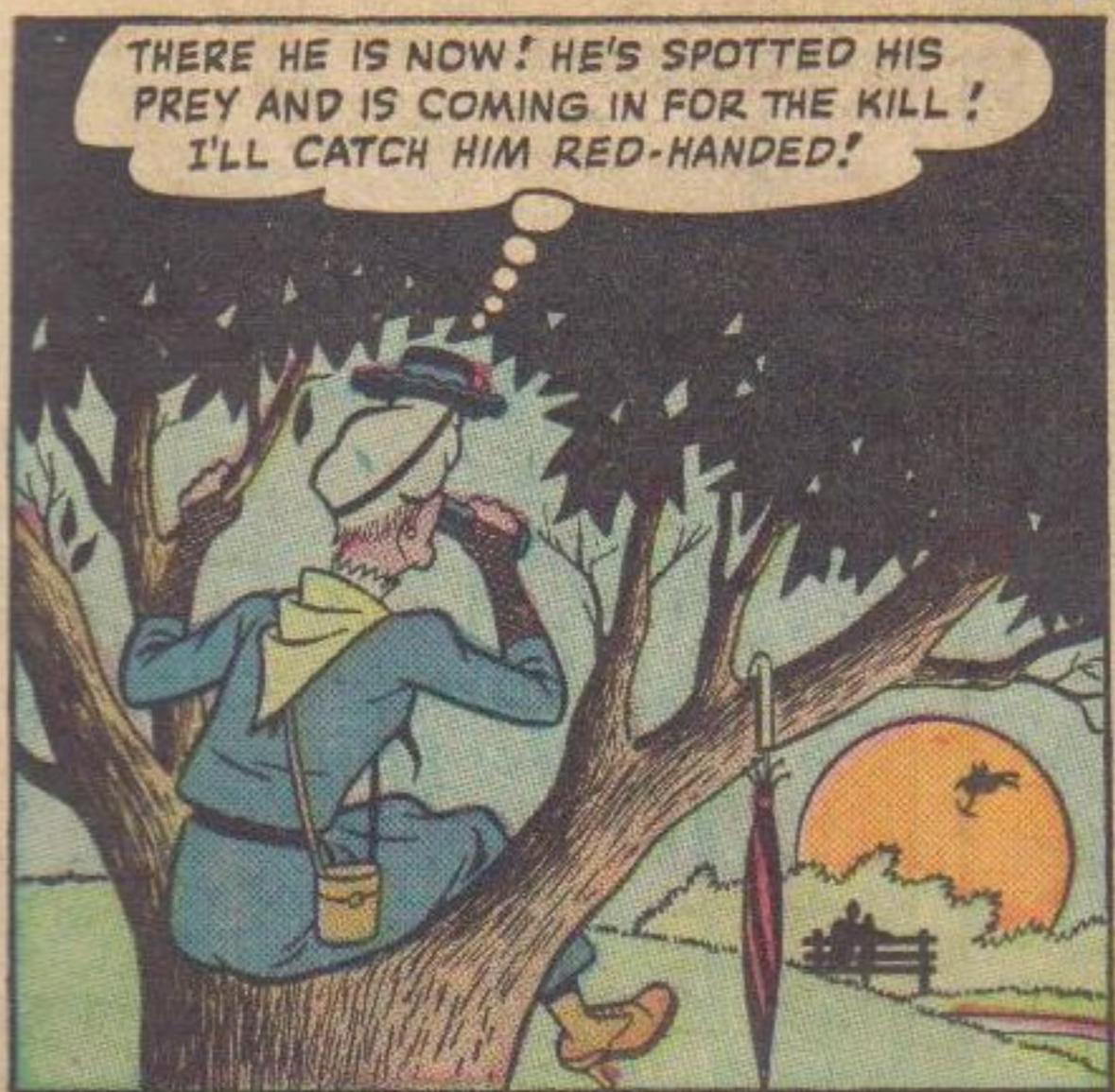


The next night...

I GUESS I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I'LL NEED...MY INFRA-RED NIGHT BINOCULARS...AND MY UMBRELLA SQUIRT GUN FILLED WITH GOOEY RUBBER CEMENT! LET'S SEE... WHERE'S A COMFORTABLE TREE?

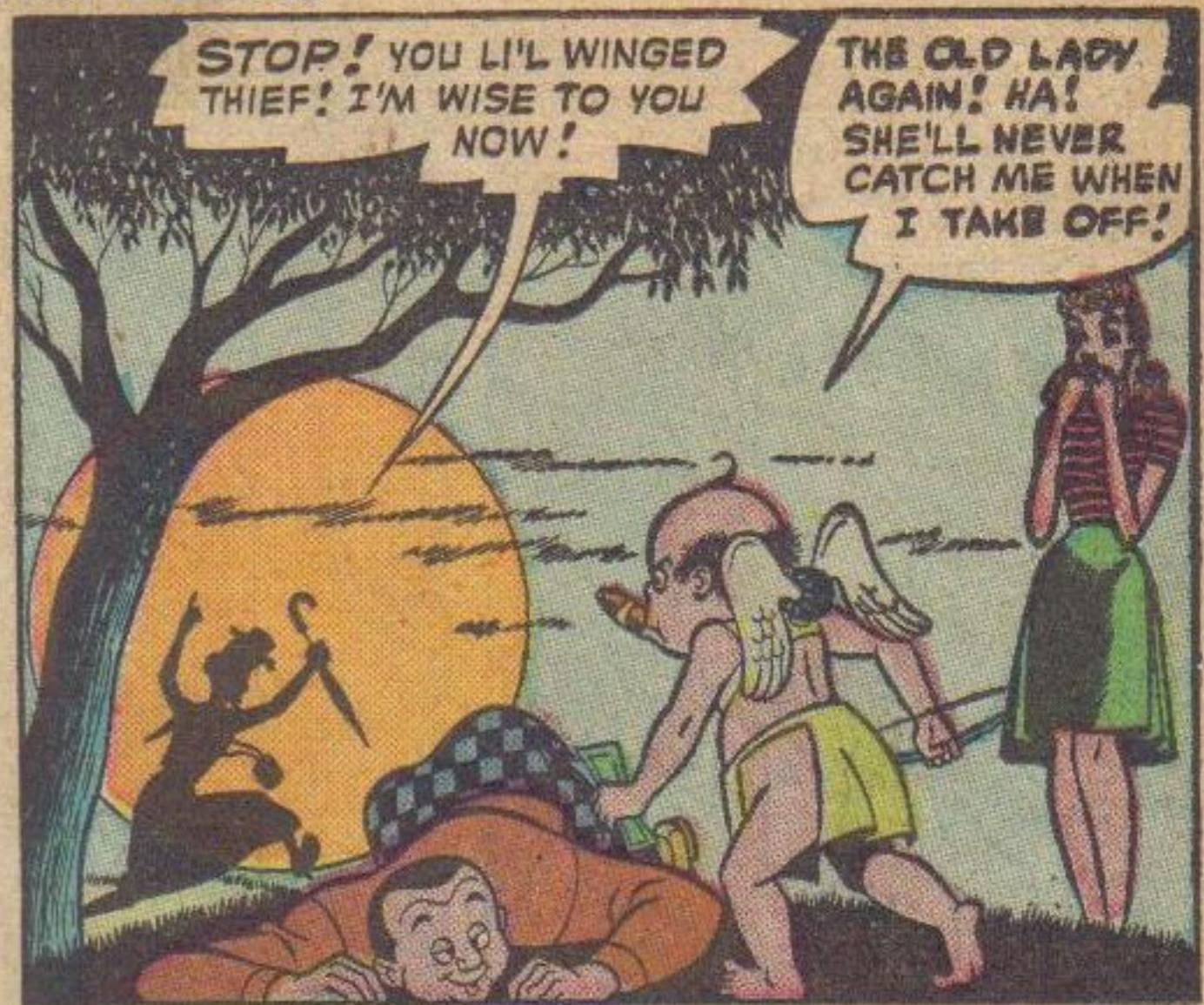


THERE HE IS NOW! HE'S SPOTTED HIS PREY AND IS COMING IN FOR THE KILL! I'LL CATCH HIM RED-HANDED!



STOP! YOU LI'L WINGED THIEF! I'M WISE TO YOU NOW!

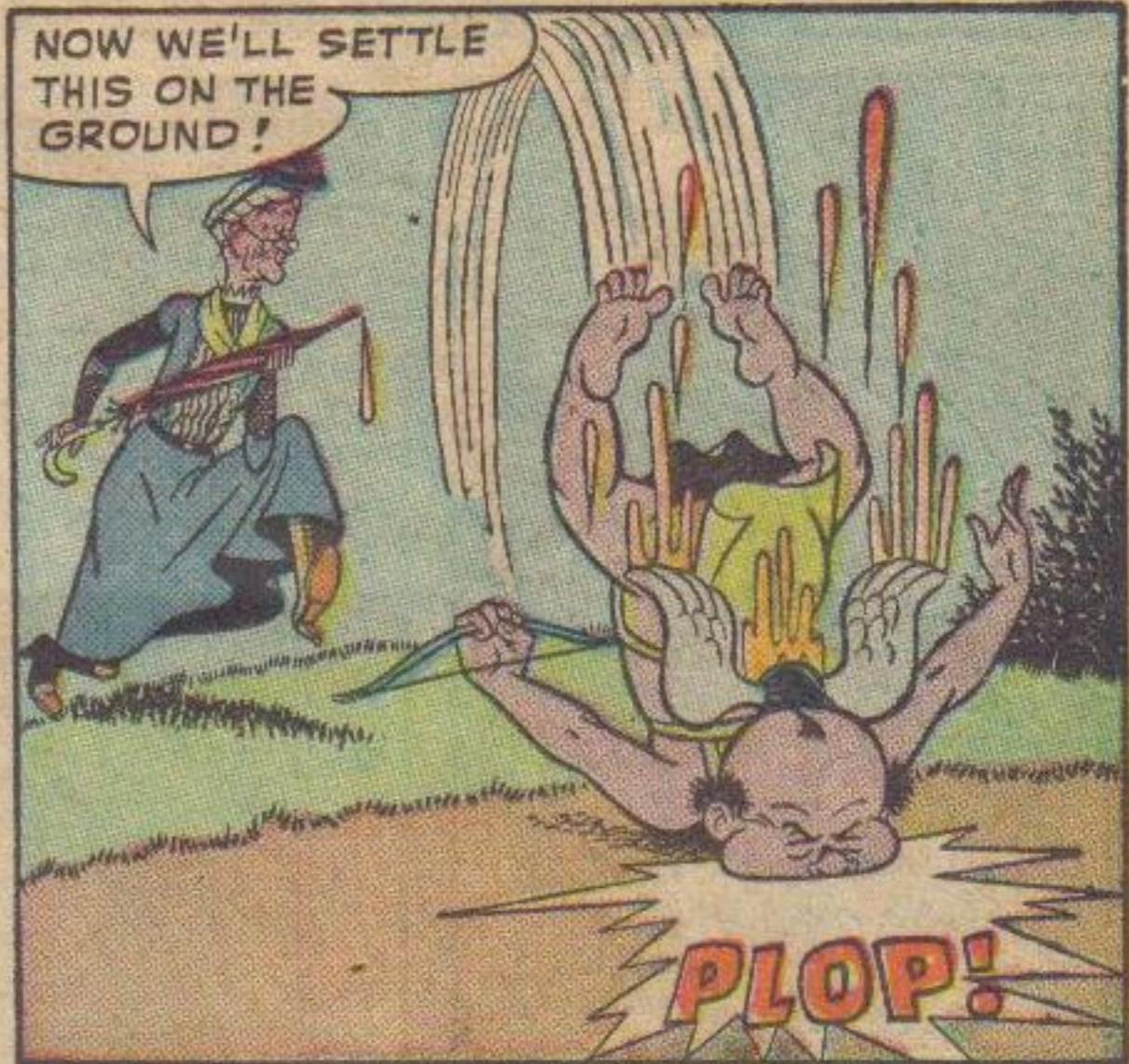
THE OLD LADY AGAIN! HA! SHE'LL NEVER CATCH ME WHEN I TAKE OFF!



I WAS READY FOR THAT! SEE HOW THIS RUBBER CEMENT GUMS UP YOUR WINGS!

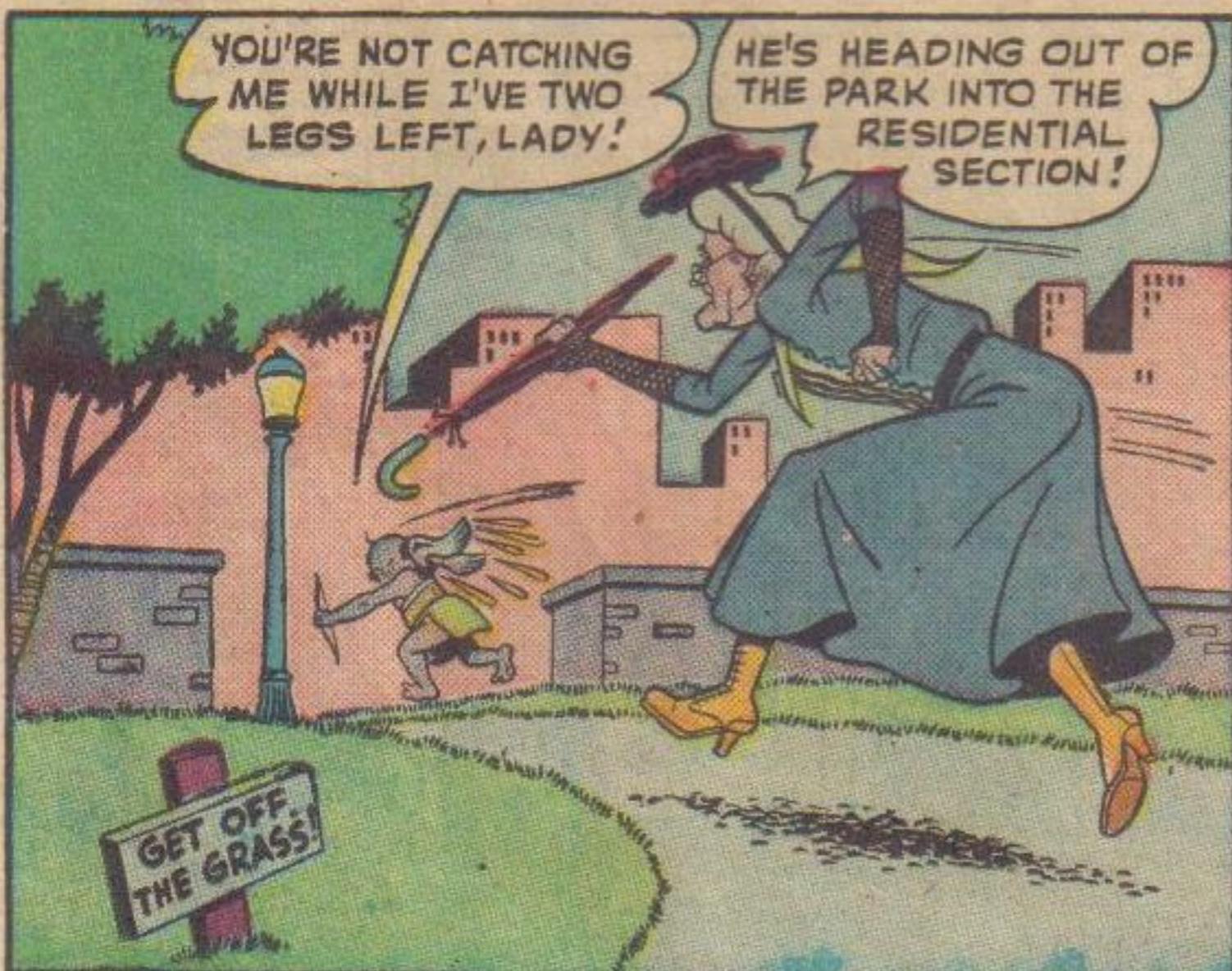


NOW WE'LL SETTLE THIS ON THE GROUND!



YOU'RE NOT CATCHING ME WHILE I'VE TWO LEGS LEFT, LADY!

HE'S HEADING OUT OF THE PARK INTO THE RESIDENTIAL SECTION!



SHE'S A TOUGH OLD BUZZARD! STILL ON MY TAIL! I BETTER STOP HER IF I EXPECT TO GET TO MY HIDEOUT WITHOUT BEING SEEN!



THIS'LL STOP HER LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO CLEAN THIS GODD OFF MY WINGS SO I CAN FLY!



I'LL ASK THE HOTEL CLERK ABOUT THIS!



YES, WE HAVE A MIDGET RESIDING HERE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR... HE USED TO BE IN THE CIRCUS AND HIS NAME IS DON THIMBLE!

THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!



I'VE BOUGHT EVERYTHING I'LL NEED... BLACK PAINT AND BRUSH! NOW TO GET BACK TO THE HOTEL!

PAINTS
VARNISHES



THERE GOES THE LI'L RASCAL OUT TO LOOT SOME MORE LOVERS! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO GET INTO HIS ROOM!



IF YOU'RE A FRIEND OF MR. THIMBLE'S AS YOU SAY, I'M SURE HE WON'T MIND YOUR WAITING IN HIS ROOM UNTIL HE RETURNS!

THANK YOU!



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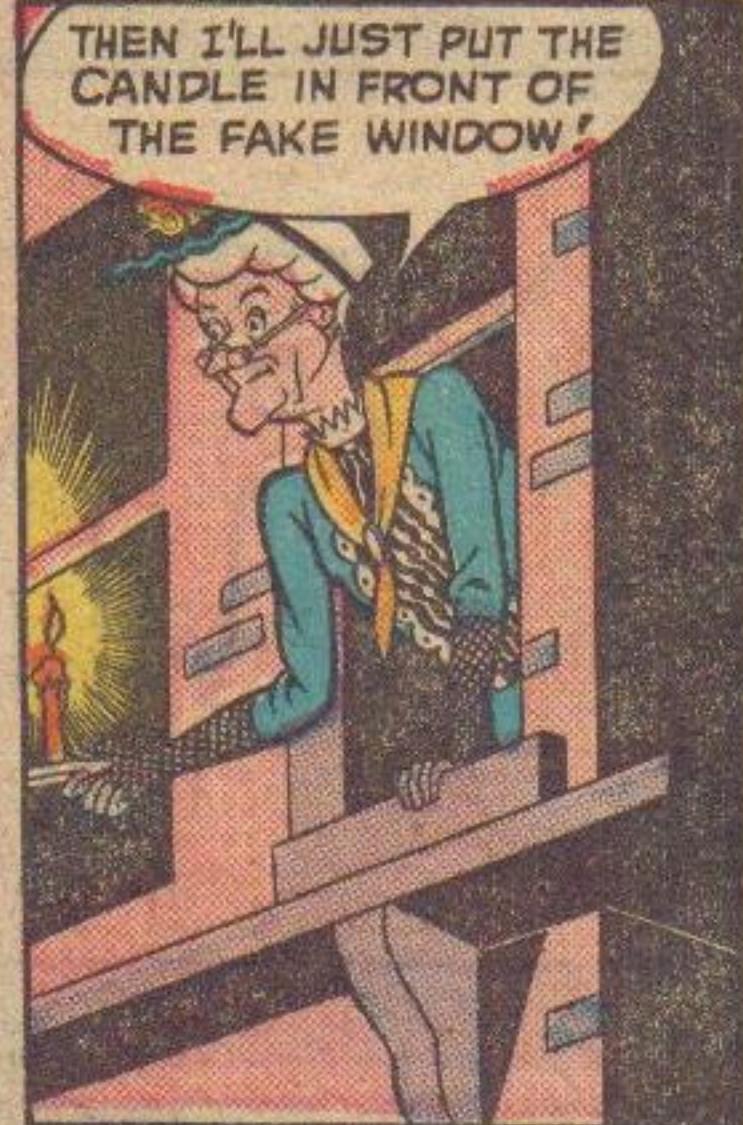
NOW TO GET TO WORK! MAYBE HE USES THIS CANDLE TO GUIDE HIM WHEN HE FLIES BACK AT NIGHT! HE'LL SEE THE LIGHT, ALL RIGHT, BUT IT WON'T BE IN THIS WINDOW!



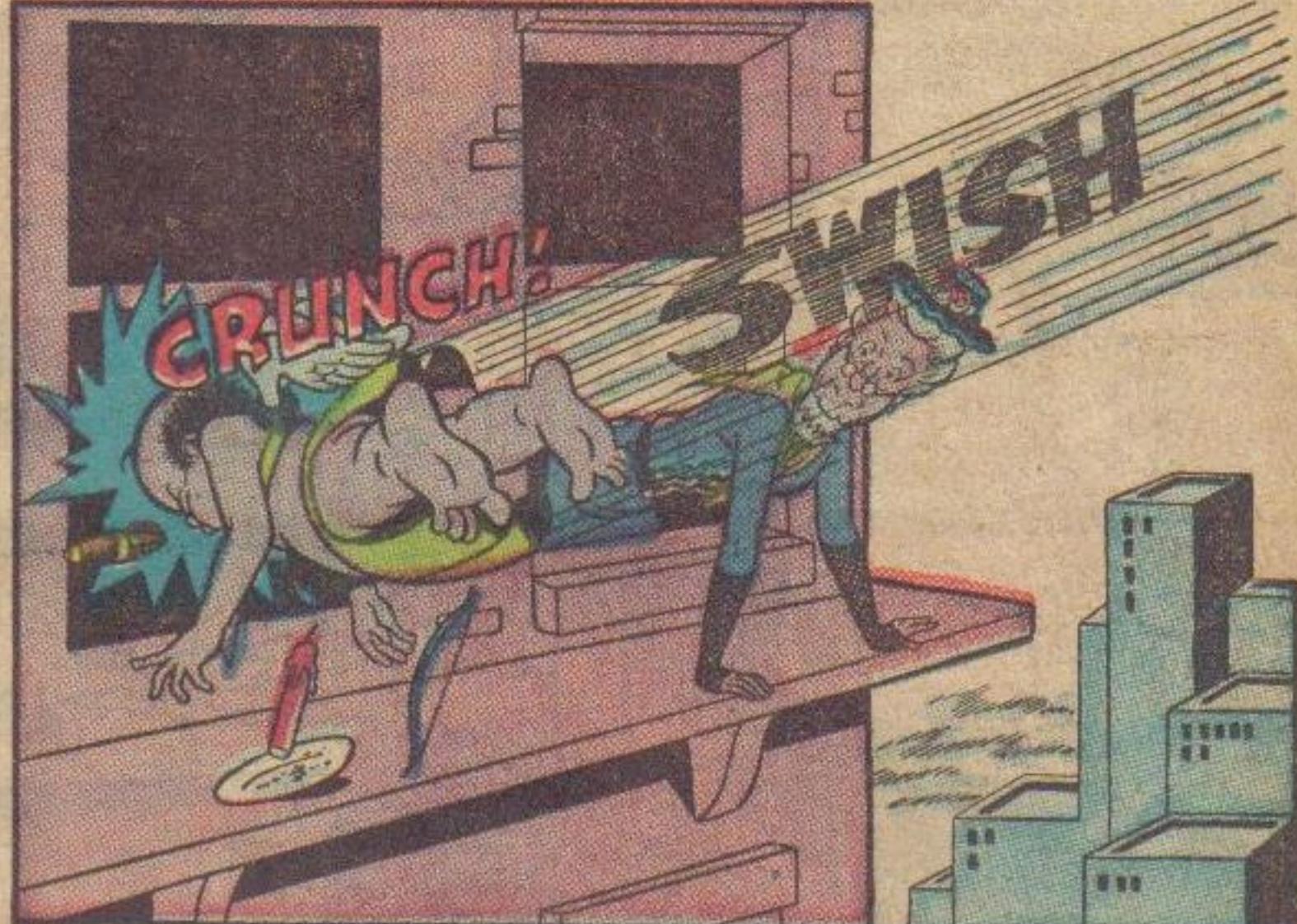
FIRST I'LL PAINT THIS FALSE WINDOW ON THE OUTSIDE WALL!



THEN I'LL JUST PUT THE CANDLE IN FRONT OF THE FAKE WINDOW!



HERE HE COMES NOW... GOING LIKE A CANNON BALL!



AH, MY LITTLE PIGEON... YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO BE A JAIL BIRD!



AND YOU USED THOSE MECHANICAL WINGS IN A CIRCUS ACT, EH?

YEAH!
THEY WORKED ALL
RIGHT IN THE
CIRCUS, BUT I
GUESS THEY'RE
NO GOOD FOR
LOVE!



RIGHT! YOU'D BETTER THINK THAT OVER WHEN YOU GO TO PRISON! LOVE IS ONE THING THAT DOESN'T TOLERATE MECHANICAL WINGS!



AN

SAY! HOW DO YOU SPELL
ANTHROP?
THAT'S ME NAME!



SOB!
SNIFF!

!



SOB:
COME
IN!

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

!

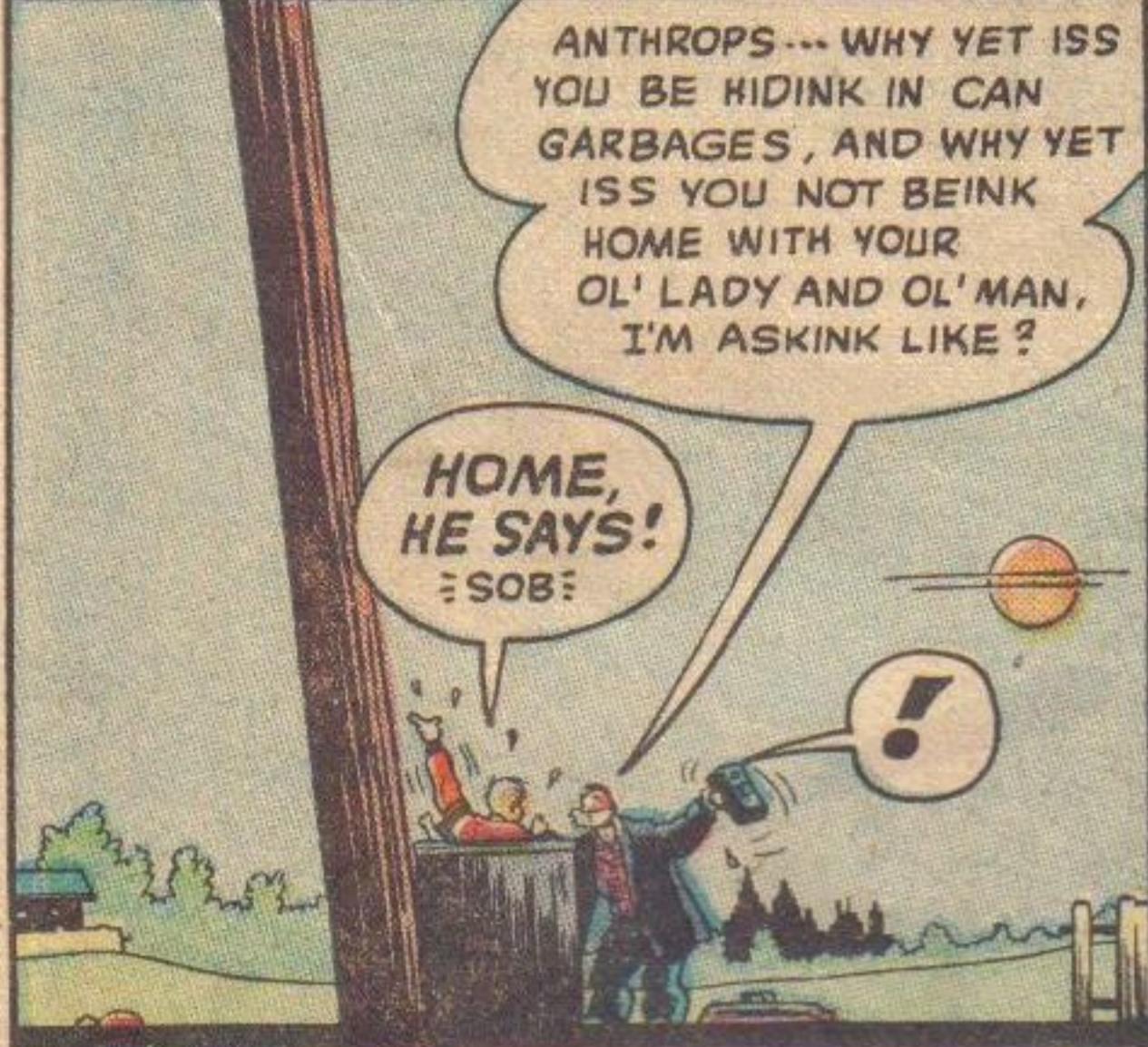
ANTHROPS!

SOB! OH,
H-HELLO, DOCTOR
BOTCHAGALOOP!
SOB!



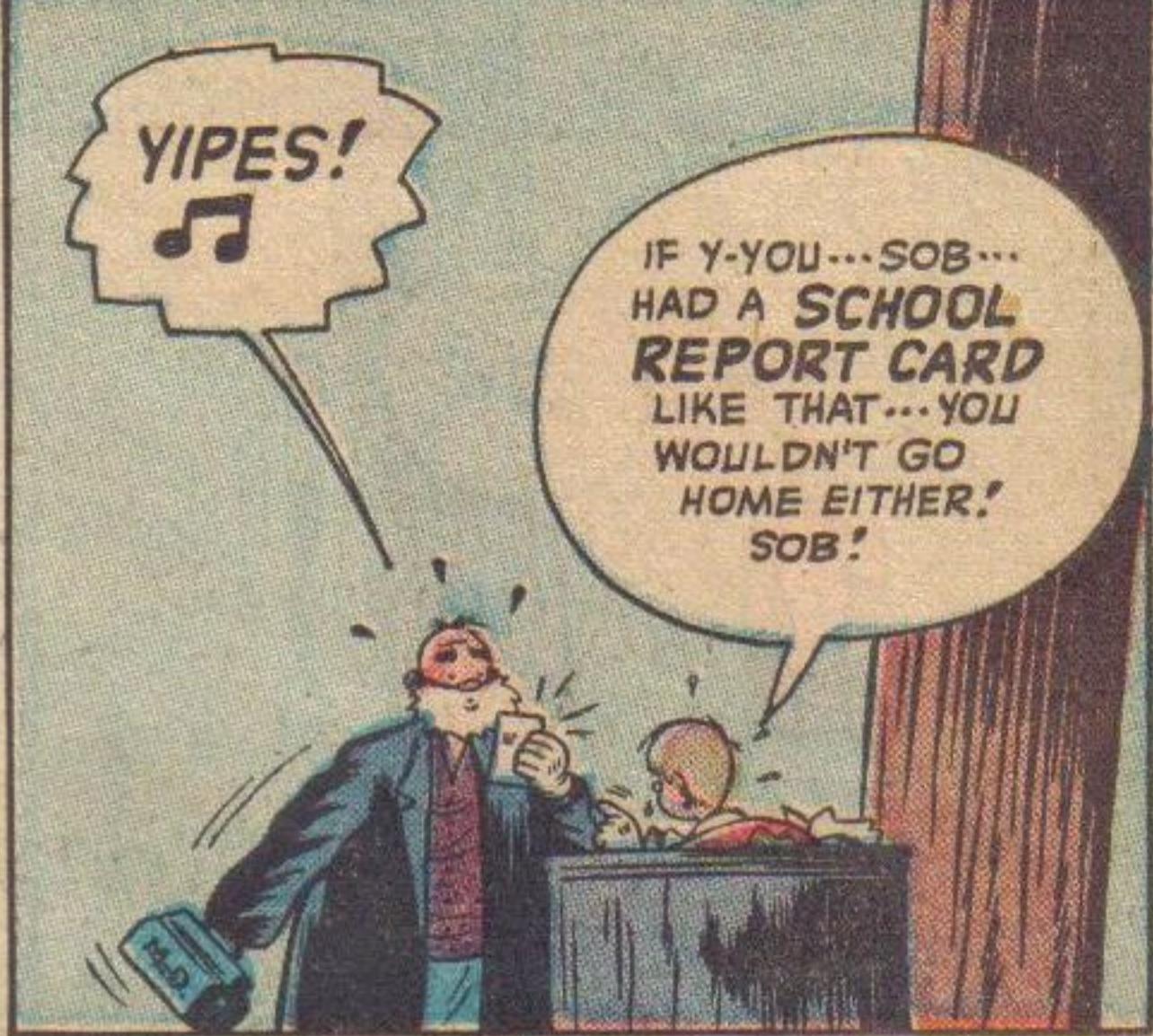
ANTHROPS... WHY YET ISS YOU BE HIDINK IN CAN GARBAGES, AND WHY YET ISS YOU NOT BEINK HOME WITH YOUR OL' LADY AND OL' MAN, I'M ASKINK LIKE?

HOME,
HE SAYS!
—SOB!



YIPES!

IF Y-YOU... SOB... HAD A SCHOOL REPORT CARD LIKE THAT... YOU WOULDN'T GO HOME EITHER! SOB!

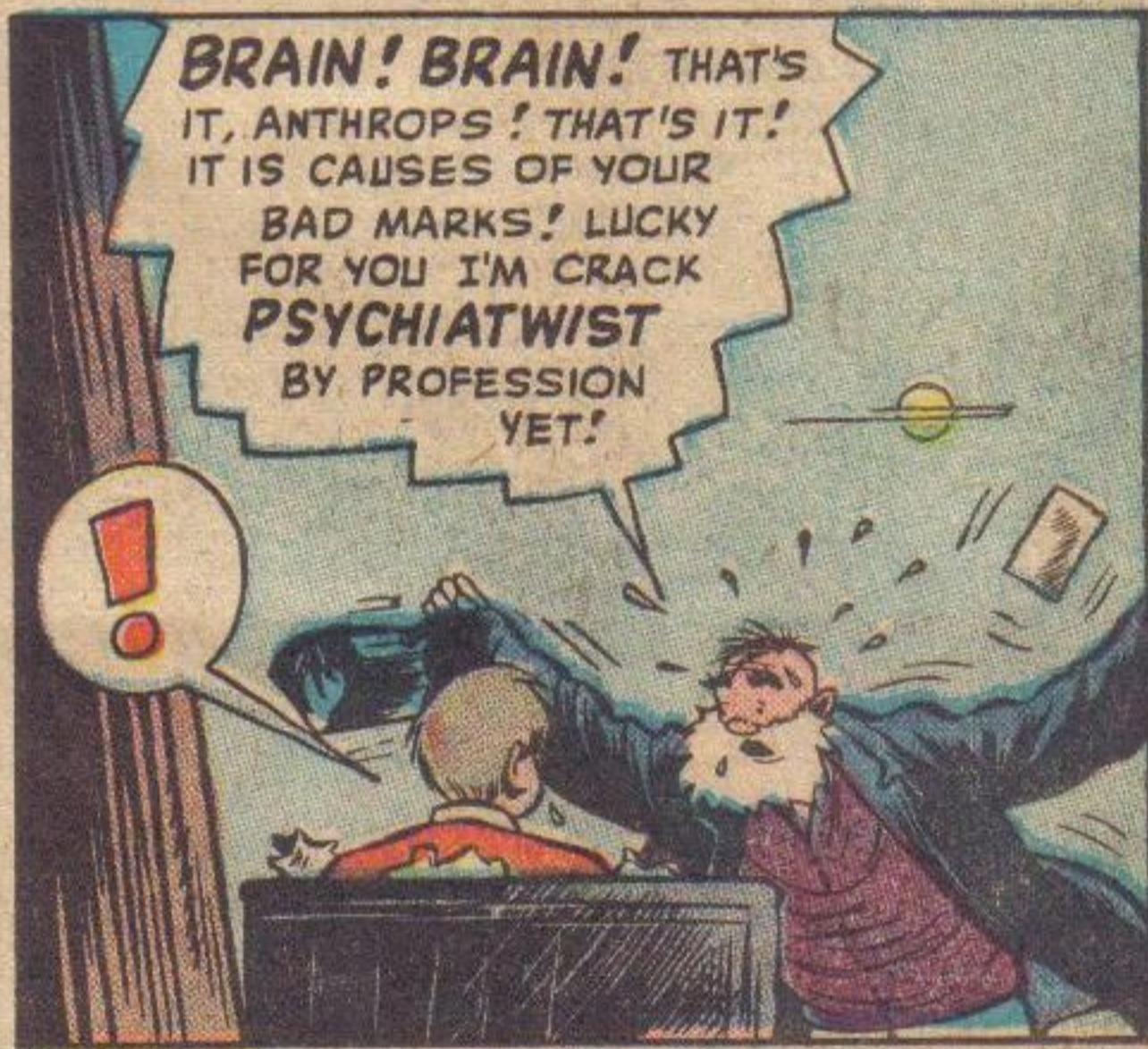


ANTHROPS... HOW CAN YOU YET BE SO STUPIDS GATTINK SUCH STINKINK REPORTS CARS MARKS, I AM ASKINK YET!

STUPID, HE SAYS! YUH THINK IT'S EASY, HUH? CAN I HELP IT IF ME BRAIN IS OVER-TALENTED WITH STUPIDITY! SOB!



BRAIN! BRAIN! THAT'S IT, ANTHROPS! THAT'S IT! IT IS CAUSES OF YOUR BAD MARKS! LUCKY FOR YOU I'M CRACK PSYCHIATWIST BY PROFESSION YET!

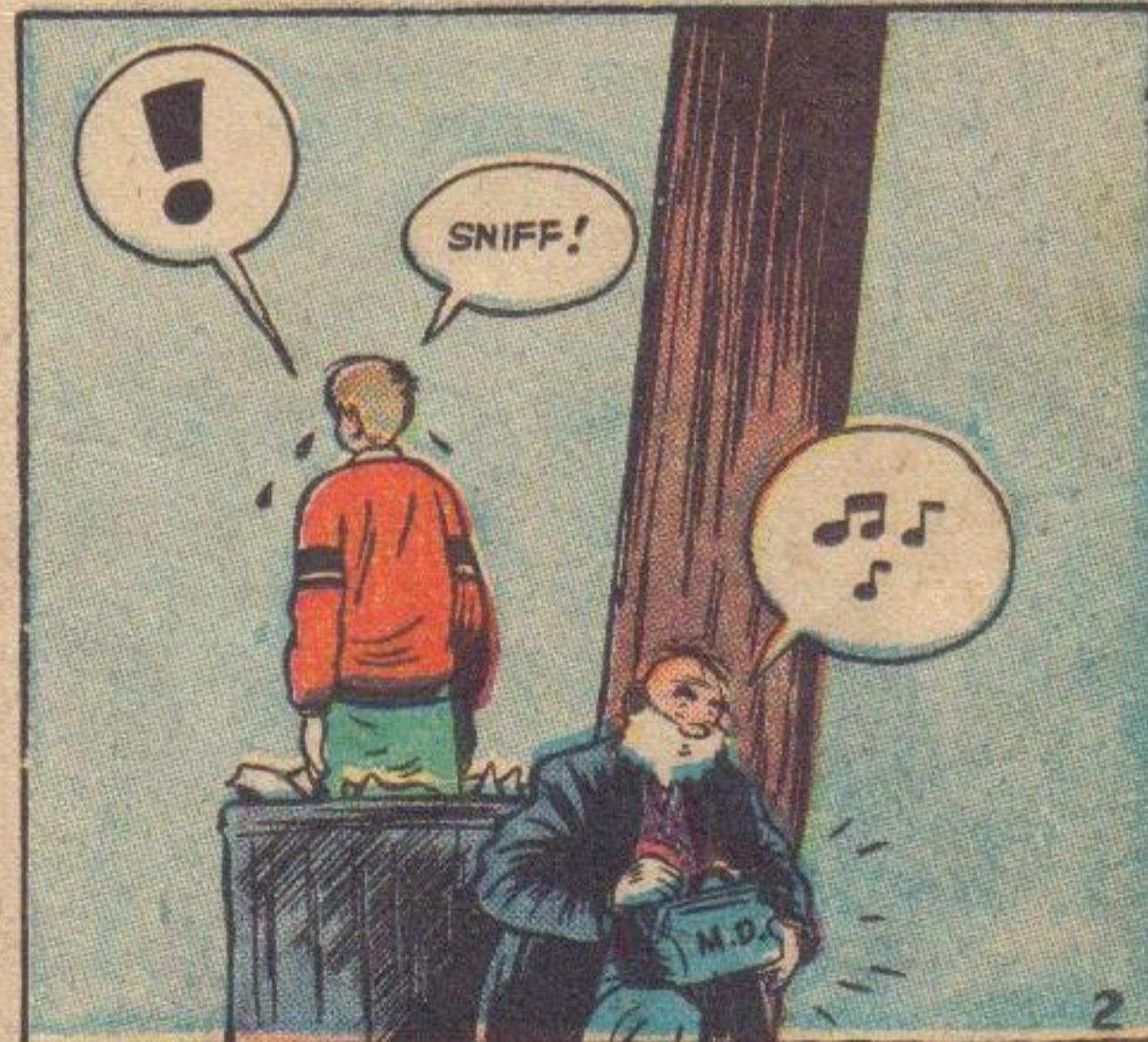


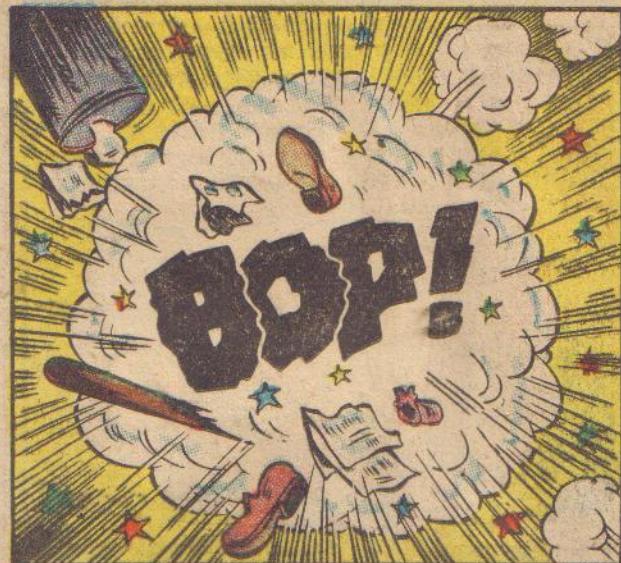
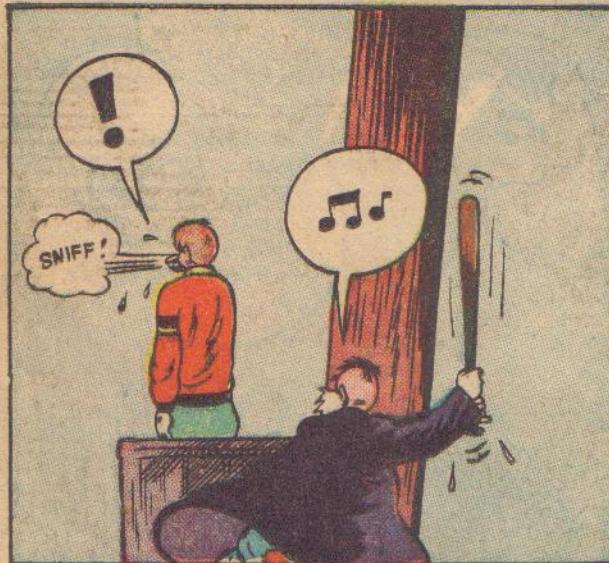
HMM... JUST BE HOLDINK THAT POSE FOR ONE MINUTES! EXAMINATIONS IS COMINK!



SNIFF!

♪ ♪ ♪





**ANTHROPS! G-GULP! BE PREPARINK
YOURSELF FOR SHOCKING NOOSE!**
I BE MAKINK MOST AMAZINK
DISCOVERY IN PSYCHIATWIST
PROFESSION'S HISTORY...
YOU... SOB... ANTHROPS...
YOU...

---AIN'T LIKE REST OF
US! SOB! G-GULP!
BATS IN BELLSFRY
YOU ISS HAVINK INSTEAD
OF BRAINS!

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT
MAKE? LONG AS I GOT
SOMETHIN' UPSTAIRS,
I ALLUS SAY!

NO! NO! ANTHROPS, YOU ISS NOT
UNDERSTANDINK! REASONS WHY YOU
ISS GETTINK LOUSY MARKS IN SCHOOL
IS... IS BECAUSE YOU ISS HAVING
BATS IN BELLSFRY AND NOT
BRAINS!

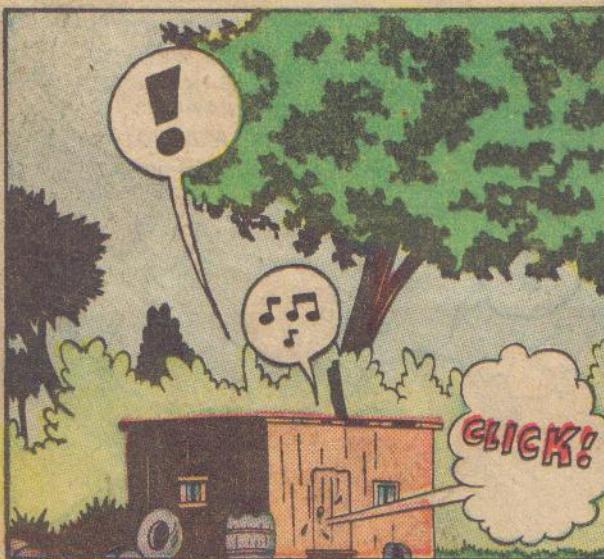
GEE, T'ANKS FOR TIPPIN' ME
OFF, DOCTOR BOTCHAGALOOPE!
I'LL GO BACK AND GET SOME
BRAINS AND TELL 'EM
THEY MADE A SLIGHT
MISTAKE!

SORRY, ANTHROPS! THAT'S HIMPOSSIBLE!
LAST WEEKS I AM GATTINK LETTER
FROM MISTER BRAINS HIMSELF, HEAD
OF BRAINS FACTORY... STATINK IS
BIG STRIKE IN ALL PLANTS!
HIGHER WAGES THEY IS
DEMANDINK, NO LESS...

HOWEVER, ALL ISS NOT LOSTED, ANTHROPS!
BRAINS YOU SHALL BE HAVINK! **PIPSEE**
PIPPEROO IDEAR I BE HAVINK! I WANT
 THAT YOU SHOULD BE
 COMINK WITH ME!



WELL, ANTHROPS!
 THERE IS YET MY
 CREAMSTATORY...
 ER... SLABSTATORY!



Three hours later...

WHEW! SOCKSESS AT LAST,
 ANTHROPS! MY CORRODED,
 SYNTHETIC URANIUM
 BRAINS PILL IS FINALLY
 PASSINK PERFECTION
 STAGES!

AMAZING,
 DOCTOR
 BOTCHAGALOOP!
 AMAZING!



OH, BOY! WON'T THEY BE
 SURPRISED AT SCHOOL
 TOMORROW!



Next morning...



Six hours later...



BOTCHAGALOO! SOB! THEM BRAINS YOU G-GAVE ME... SOB!... IS **NO GOOD!** NOT ONLY DID I GET **ZERO MINUS** IN EVERY SUBJECT... BUT I WAS DEMOTED FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE TO THE FOURTH!
WAH!



NOW! NOW! BE CALMINK YOURSELF, ANTHROPS! **SIT DOWN!** LEAVE ME BE GIVINK YOUR NOGGINS ANOTHER X-RAY EXAMINATIONS! COULD BE YET MY BRAIN PILL ISS NEEDINK A LITTLE MORE TIMES TO BE TAKING AFFECTION!

Co#!!!!
WHO EVER HEARD OF BRAINS IN THE FEET?
Co#***!!!

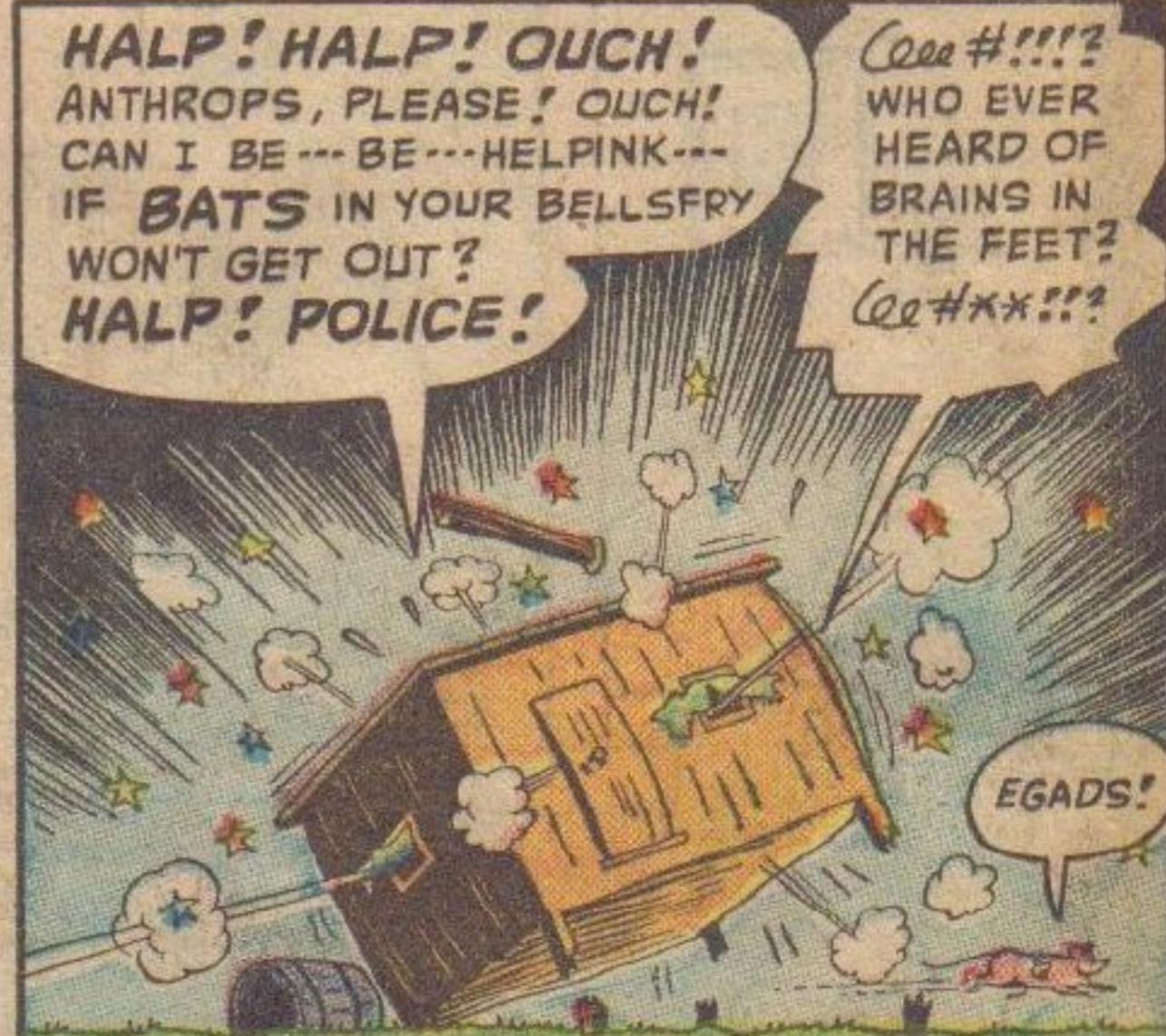
Ten minutes later...

ANTHROPS! AFTER EXAMINATIONS... I AM FINDINK **BRAINS**, BUT NOT IN YOUR NOGGINS! JUST BE GIVINK 'EM A LITTLE TIME TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES IN THEIR NEW HOME! IN DUE TIME THEY WILL BE ACTINK IN NORMAL FASHIONS...



HALP! HALP! OUCH!
ANTHROPS, PLEASE! OUCH!
CAN I BE---BE---HELPINK---
IF **BATS** IN YOUR BELLSFRY
WON'T GET OUT?
HALP! POLICE!

Co#!!!!
WHO EVER HEARD OF BRAINS IN THE FEET?
Co#***!!!



LASSIE

WELL, WHY NOT?
REMEMBER, YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
REMAIN A LITTLE
GIRL FOREVER!

NO, I S'POSE I'M
NOT AS YOUNG AS
I USED TO BE!

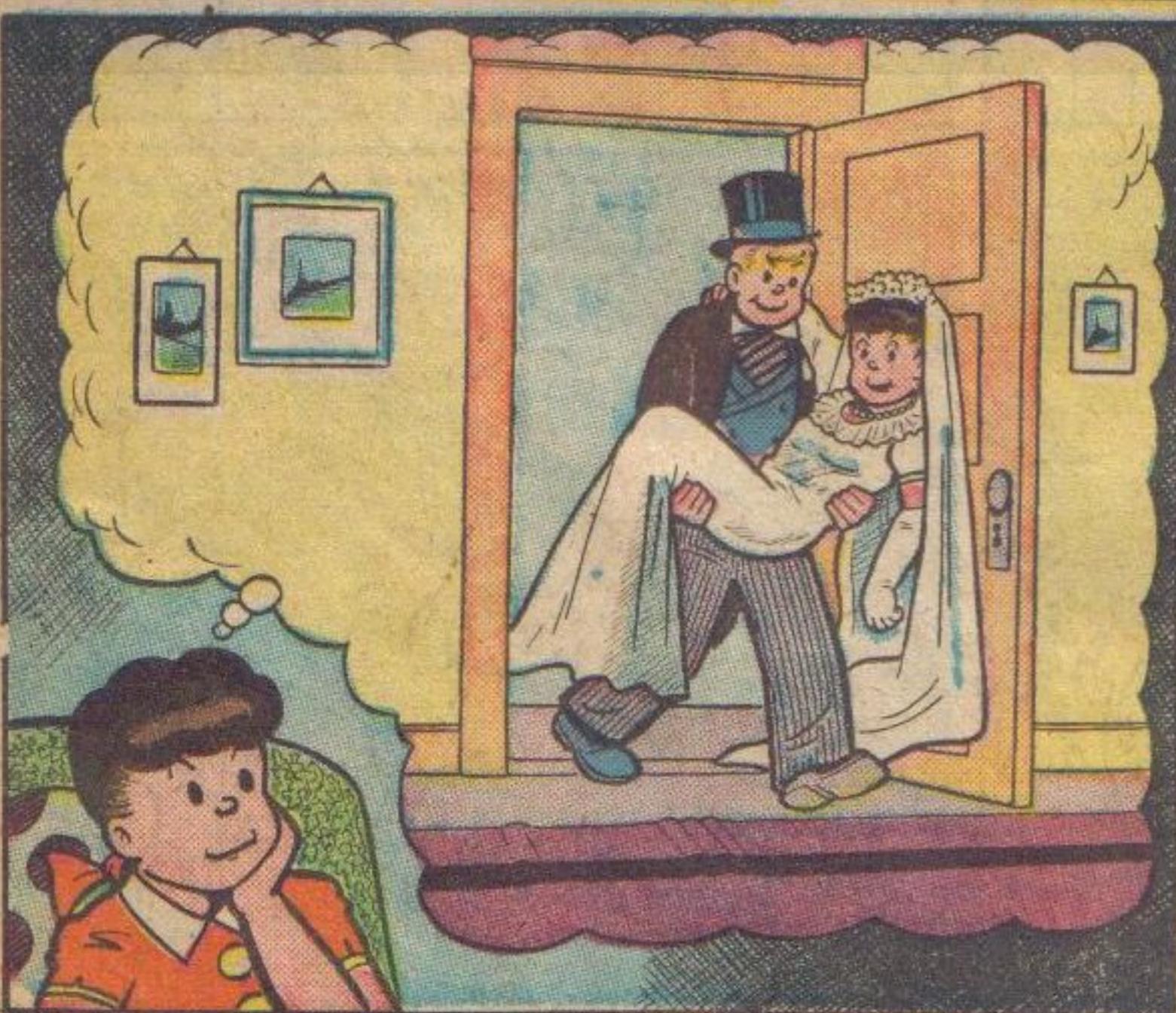
CERTAINLY WE
SHOULD ALL THINK
OF THE FUTURE...
AND PLAN FOR
IT, TOO!

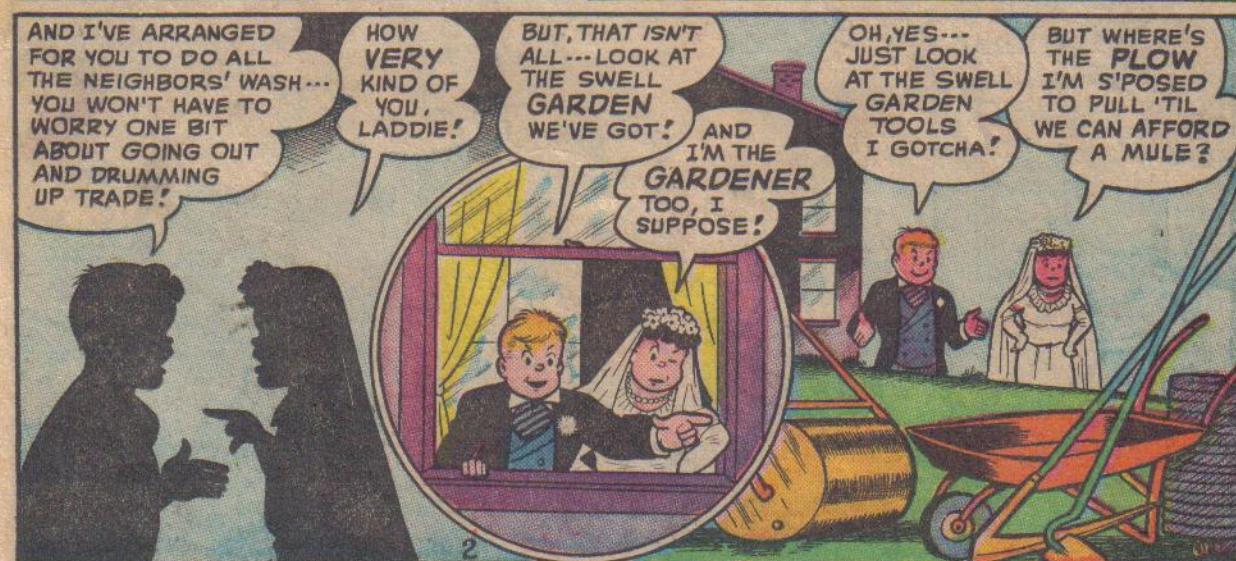
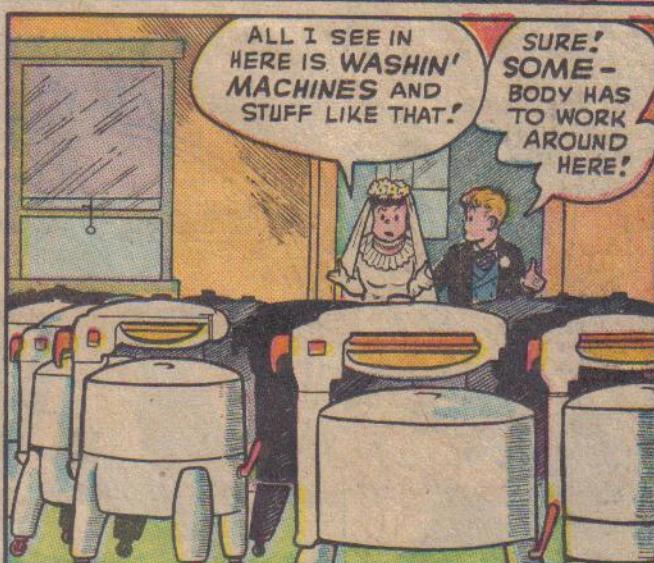
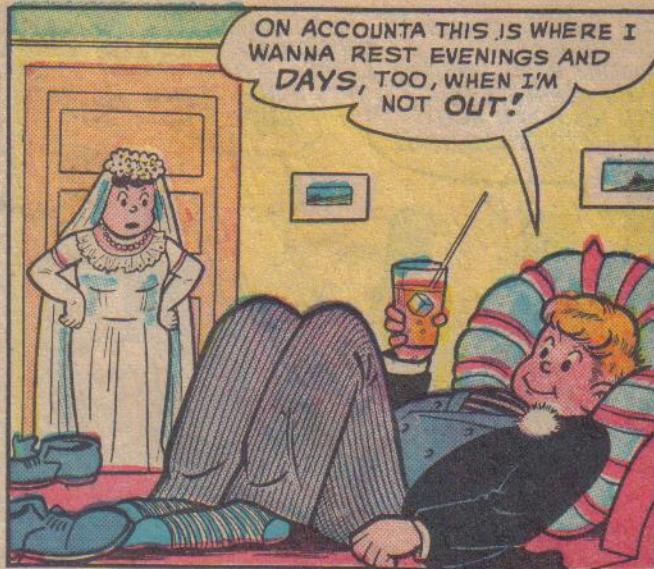
YOU MEAN AT
MY EARLY
AGE?

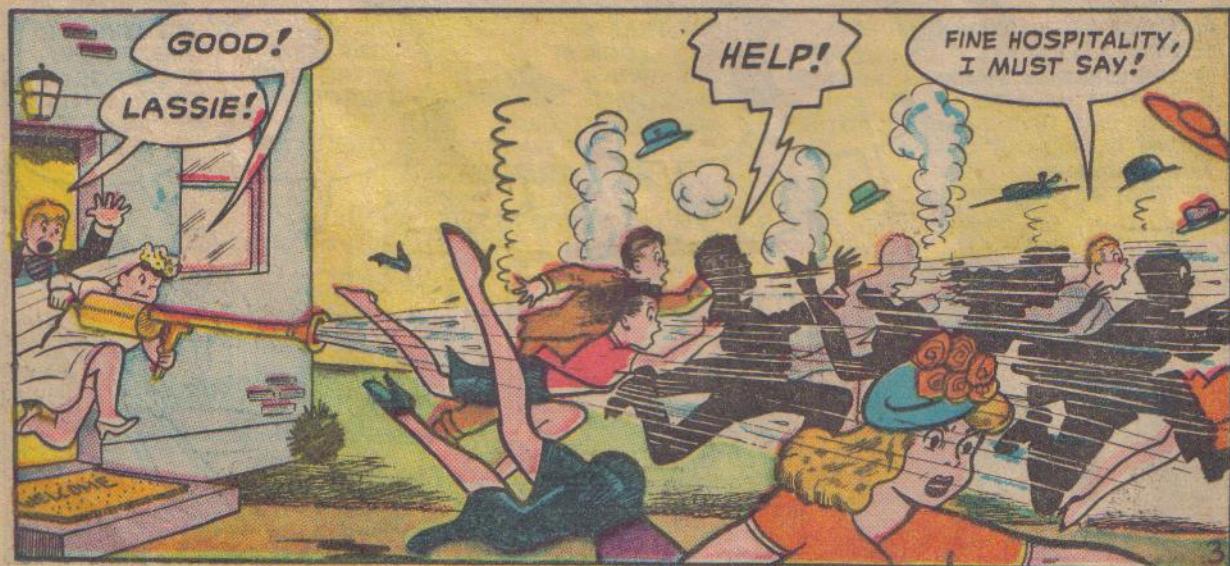
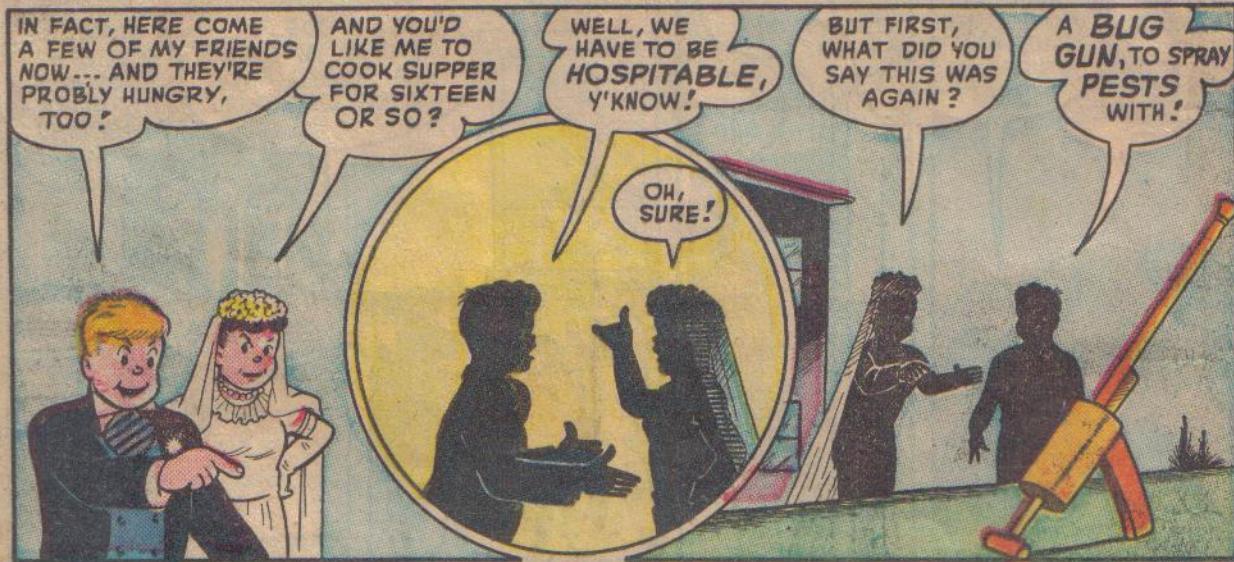
AND I GUESS FUNNY
THINGS COULD HAPPEN
TO ME, TOO...LIKE
SOMEDAY I MIGHT
FIND MYSELF
MARRIED!

SO THIS IS OUR
NEW LITTLE
HOME, LADDIE?

YEP, HOW
DO YA
LIKE IT,
LASSIE?







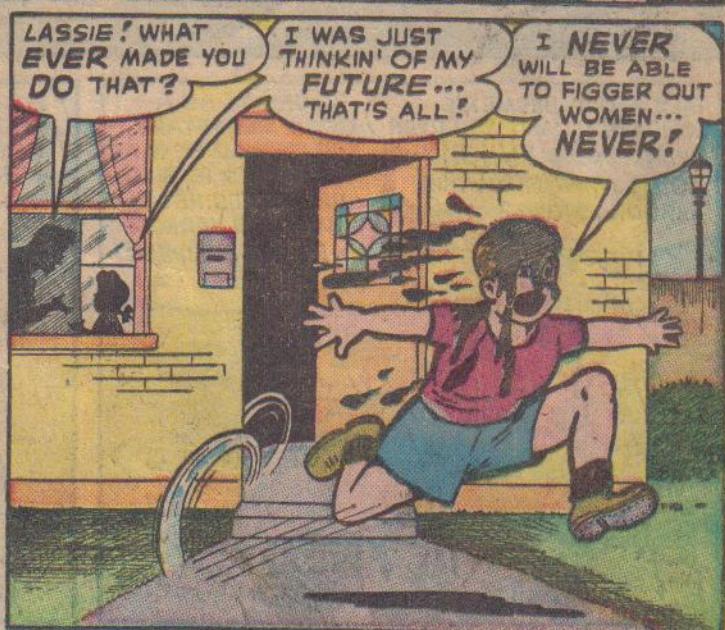
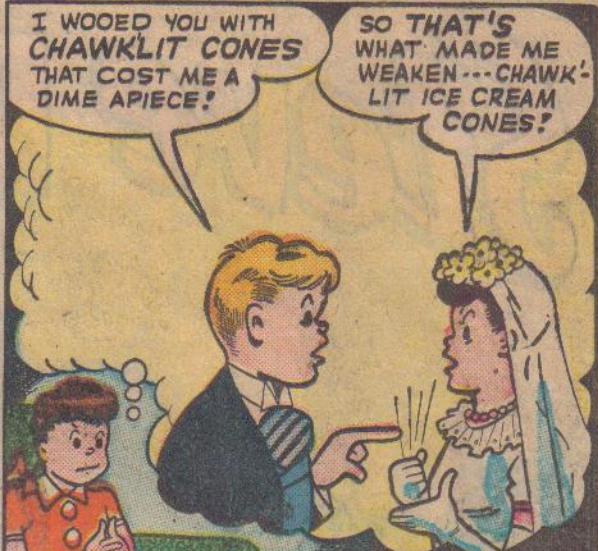
NATIONAL COMICS

WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS
HOW I EVER CAME TO
MARRY YOU IN THE
FIRST PLACE!

WELL, I WAS
VERY GOOD TO
YOU, WASN'T I?

I WOODED YOU WITH
CHAWKLIT CONES
THAT COST ME A
DIME APIECE!

SO THAT'S
WHAT MADE ME
WEAKEN --- CHAWK'-
LIT ICE CREAM
CONES?



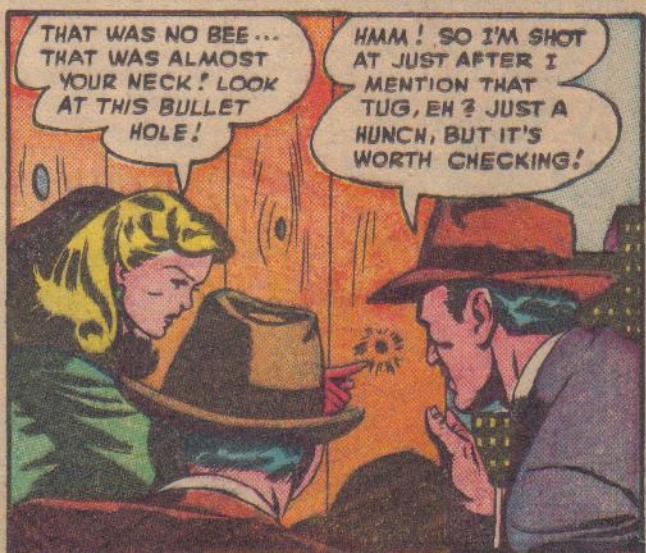
Steve WOOD



Steve Wood, waterfront detective, meets a terrifying opponent, as he battles CHARON, sinister skipper of THE SHIP THAT ATE MEN!



NATIONAL COMICS



NATIONAL COMICS

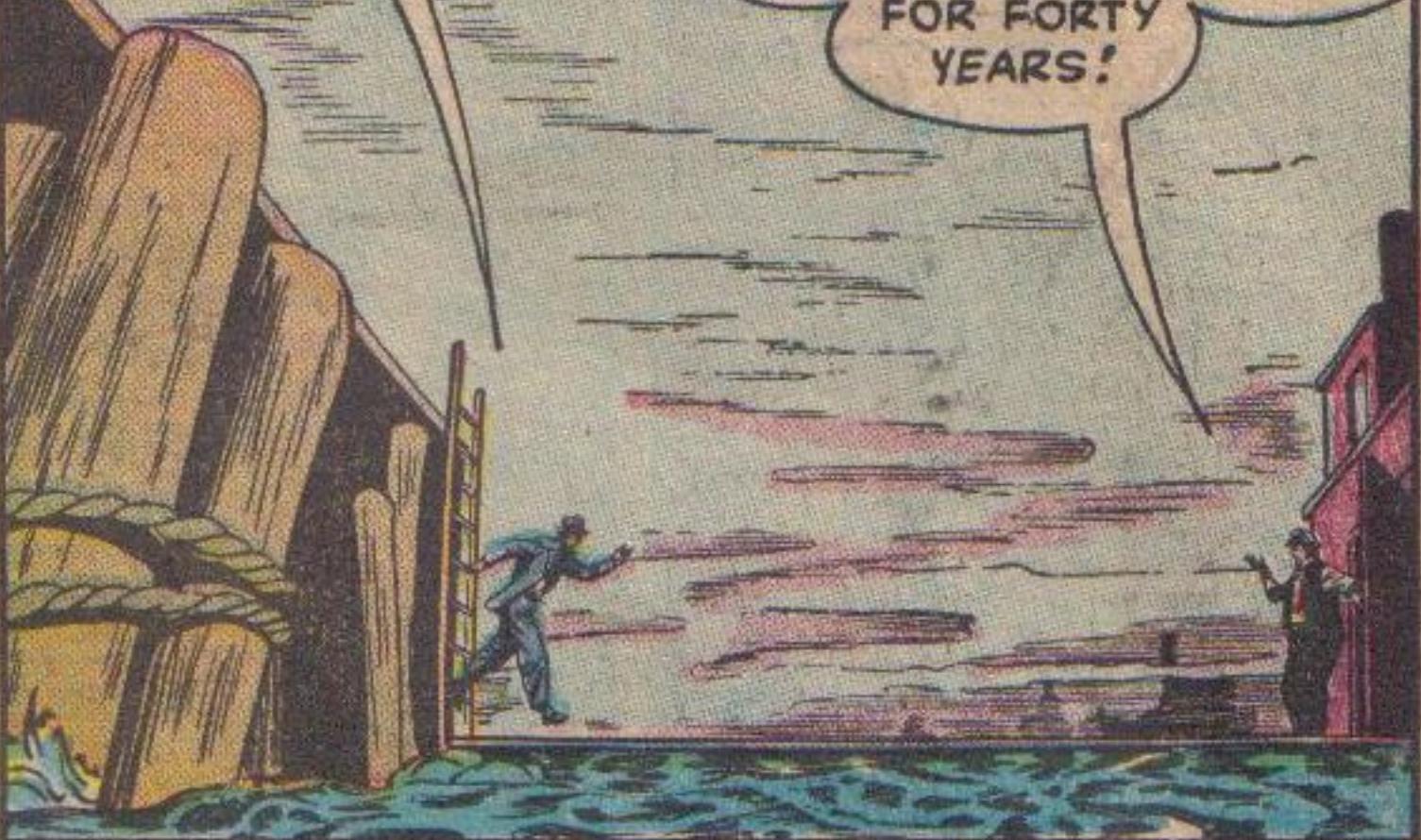
HUH? WHAT'S A TUG GOT TO DO WITH GETTIN' SHOT AT AND...

IF I'M RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I COME FOR THAT REWARD!



HI, POP? GOT A MINUTE? I NEED SOME INFORMATION!

COME ABOARD, STEVE! IF IT'S ABOUT THIS HARBOR, I OUGHT TO KNOW! BEEN WORKIN' IT, MAN AND BOY, FOR FORTY YEARS!



...AND THAT'S ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS TUG?

YEP! SHE'S NEW ALL RIGHT! NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE THIS MORNIN'!



'BYE, POP! I'M GOING TO DO A LITTLE PRIVATE INSPECTING OF MY OWN!

GOOD LUCK, SON! SHE'S BERTHED RIGHT DOWN THE PIER!



LOOKS DESERTED! FUNNY... THERE'S NOTHING REALLY DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS TUG, AND YET ... WHA...!

CRACK!



WOW! THOSE BOARDS WERE CUT! AND---THE TUG'S MOVING TOWARD ME! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL BE CRUSHED!

SPLASH!



IF I CAN ONLY MAKE THE STERN IN TIME ... WHOEVER'S AT THE WHEEL OF THIS TUG IS SURE TRYING HIS BEST TO SEE THAT I DON'T MAKE IT!

THUMP!
SWISH!



NATIONAL COMICS

BET I BROKE A SPEED RECORD ON THAT SWIM! NOW TO HIDE 'TIL THEY'RE SURE I'M DONE FOR!

...NOBODY WORRIES ABOUT A DEAD DETECTIVE! SO I THINK I'LL GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT! HEY...THE TUG'S MOVING OUT!

A few minutes later...

THEY MUST BE SURE THEIR TRICK WORKED! NOT A SOUL ON GUARD! NOW FOR A QUICK LOOK AROUND!

HMM! I'D SWEAR THOSE ENGINES HAVEN'T BEEN USED FOR YEARS... IF I HADN'T JUST HAD VERY GOOD PROOF TO THE CONTRARY! OH, OH! WHAT'S THAT?

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

I HID JUST IN TIME! AND THAT'S MY MAN... CHARON!

IN A FEW MOMENTS YOU CAN TAKE OFF YOUR BLINDFOLDS, GENTLEMEN! JUST FOLLOW ME QUICKLY THROUGH THIS HATCH!

THIS HATCH COVER HAS A TIME LOCK! HURRY ALONG OR YOU'LL BE DROWNED WHEN WE SUBMERGE!

SUBM---THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHY THE TUG RODE FUNNY! IT'S JUST A PHONY, MOUNTED ON THE CONNING TOWER OF A SUBMARINE!

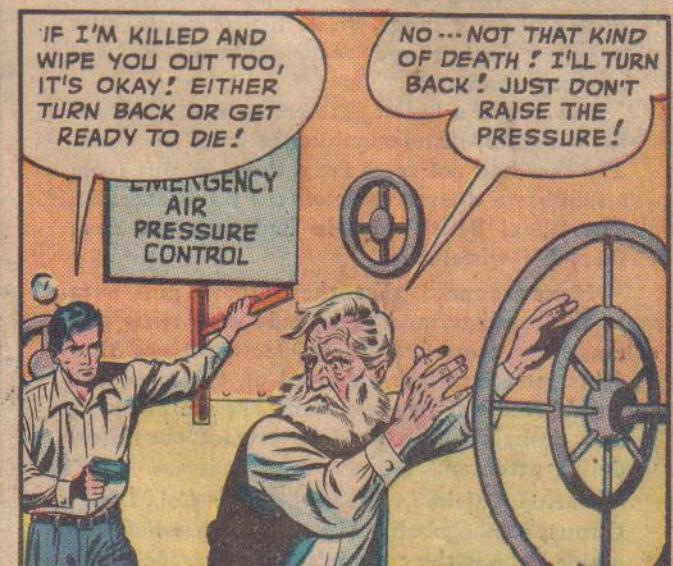
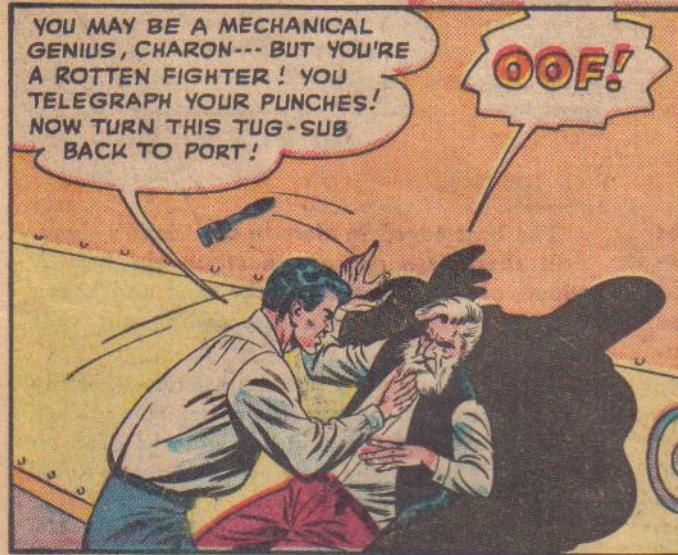
NOT EXACTLY A FAIR FIGHT, BUT IT'S NECESSARY...IF I'M RIGHT ABOUT THIS SETUP!

UGH!

NATIONAL COMICS



NATIONAL COMICS



The BARKER AND THE BANDITS

THE Biloxi Belle steamed slowly down the bread, yellow Mississippi, the paddle wheels at her stern turning with monotonous regularity. Aboard the boat was an odd assortment of people and animals—Colonel Lane's Mammoth Circus.

People of the Mississippi bayou country seldom got a glimpse of such a circus. One reason why Col. Lane always enjoyed giving his shows along the Big Muddy. But it had been a long time since he had traveled this circuit.

At nightfall, the show troupe gathered on deck and sang songs, while negro roustabouts hummed background accompaniment. It was all very romantic.

But, when a bullet shattered one of the cabin windows, pandemonium reigned on deck. The shot had not come from the ship, but from a sandbar a quarter-mile off the starboard side. The Biloxi Belle's captain had seen the flash from his wheelhouse.

He announced that they would pull over to the sandbar, and everybody was tense and ready for some excitement. He explained that folks sometimes got stranded on the bars, and would starve if not taken off. The shot, he said, had probably been fired to attract the Biloxi Belle's attention.

Carnie Calahan, the barker for Col. Lane's Circus, was probably the only man who complained about the captain's curiosity. He didn't know why he felt it would be dangerous to alter the course of the ship, but he spoke about it to the Colonel.

"But it's happened before, probably many times," Col. Lane said. "What are you worried about?"

"I don't know, Colonel," Carnie replied. "I just am. Call it intuition, or something."

The big searchlight on the bow picked out their destination in short order. The island was really a large bar, covered with tall reeds. On it, there was no sign of anyone, or any boat. Even when the captain tooted his whistle, there was no response.

"The poor devil is probably either hurt or too weak to signal," he said to Carnie and the Colonel, as they watched from the wheelhouse. But Carnie Calahan didn't share the captain's opinion.

The boat edged in close to the island's shore. Still there was no movement on the bar. A couple of sailors leaped to the sand and began scouting through the reeds, calling out that help was at hand.

But suddenly two dozen unshaven, heavily armed men jumped out from the reeds. They leaped on board the ship and got the drop on everybody before the crew and passengers knew what was happening.

"What's the meaning of this?" roared the captain. "It's piracy, that's what it is—and I'll have your hides for it!"

"Shut up, you old goat!" retorted one of the boarders. "We ain't gonna hurt anybody if they do like we say. But we'll blast the fust one who tries any monkeyshines! Understand?" The man, a big bearded fellow, surveyed the group with an evil leer.

"What do you want?" demanded the captain.

"We want the money that's in the circus man's safe, that's what we want," said the big man, evidently the leader of the band, "An' we want it now! Where's Colonel Lane?"

The colonel stepped forward. "I am Colonel Lane," he said quietly. "And you may have the money if you'll promise not to harm anyone."

Several members of the boarding party laughed raucously.

"Lissen to him!" cried one. "He's tellin' us what we should and shouldn't do—an' us with the guns!"

But the bandit leader had not figured on the plucky caliber of Col. Lane's show troupe. As he followed the Colonel across the deck, he walked smack into a heavy body. Down on the deck he went, the breath knocked out of him.

It was Lena, the fat lady, who pretending to be unaware of the situation, attempted to apologize as the leader struggled to his feet.

"Wha's a matter wit' you, you big hunk?" demanded the irate pirate. "Fer a penny I'd let some air into that balloon you use fer a carcass!"

Lena only smiled as she waddled out of his way.

The leader lurched on, following Col. Lane,

NATIONAL COMICS

who had reached his ticket wagon in the stern of the ship. The colonel was puffing mightily as he mounted the wagon's six steps and went inside. A dim light over his desk revealed the safe in its customary corner.

The bandit leader clumped up the steps and peered inside. Spotting the safe, he grunted with satisfaction.

"Get her open, quick!" he snapped. He flourished his gun.

Just then several large snakes began wriggling across the floor of the wagon, slithering toward the bandit. Wide-eyed, he let out a yowl, and began firing wildly at the floor.

Several of his mob raced along the deck, attracted by the noise. All of them brandished guns and knives.

But just then the bandit leader fell out of the ticket wagon on his back, and Shali, the snake charmer, hiding behind some drapes in the wagon, chuckled softly. Her snakes had performed just right. The big thug was scared to death of them.

"Shali, are you there?" asked Col. Lane.

"Yes, Colonel," Shali said. "How did you like the little snake stunt?"

"Fine," said the Colonel, "but what good can it do? They'll all be here in a moment." The colonel was visibly disturbed.

Now another voice spoke, from a small window over the colonel's desk: "Take it easy, Colonel," came the advice. "We have another little surprise planned!"

It was Spudo, the four-armed man.

When someone began firing a revolver out on deck, Spudo, who had poked his head through the window, withdrew it and disappeared.

All this action had taken place with only deck lights to illuminate the scene. Now the lights went out all over the ship, and darkness hid the ship and the river beyond.

Then fighting broke out among members of the boarding party. They didn't know whether they were tangling with friend or enemy, so, eager for a scrap, they tangled with the nearest person.

"This is what I'd hoped for," whispered Carnie Calahan to Major Midge, the midget of the show. "You run this line around the colonel's wagon and hurry back here. Be quiet about it. Not that those devils would hear you right now."

"Okay, Carnie," said Midge. "I'm off."

While Midge was thus engaged, Tiny, the strong man, was also busy. He had broken out

some special stores seldom used by the circus, but effective, he thought, for this kind of emergency. Now he quickly and silently set these up, ready for use.

Meantime the barker hooked electric wires to three long tubes pointing upward from the stern of the ship. Then he attached a fuse to the thin line Major Midge had tied around the Colonel's wagon.

But the fighting had died down among the bandits, because their eyes had now become accustomed to the sudden darkness. Organized again, they began yelling for their leader.

"Hey, Meggs, where the devil are you?" yelled one.

"Turn on them lights!" another shouted.

But the darkness still reigned aboard the Biloxi Belle.

Up in the wheelhouse the captain was nervously waiting for the barker to put his plan in action. The captain wasn't at all sure that it would work, but there was nothing else to do but let Carnie try it. He sat near the speaking tube near the wheel. A voice came over it abruptly.

"Yes," said the captain.

It was the voice of the barker. "We're all set, Captain!" Carnie said. "You be ready with the searchlight. Major Midge will set off the fireworks. Here goes!"

Suddenly a blinding flash of green fire swooped around the colonel's ticket wagon like a coil of emerald flame. Simultaneously, three red rockets soared high into the sky, breaking and falling in a startling display of red brilliance.

The panicky bandits yelled and roared. The flash caught Meggs, their leader, just as he was tugging the safe through the door of the ticket wagon. He stood out in the green brilliance like some grotesque bear.

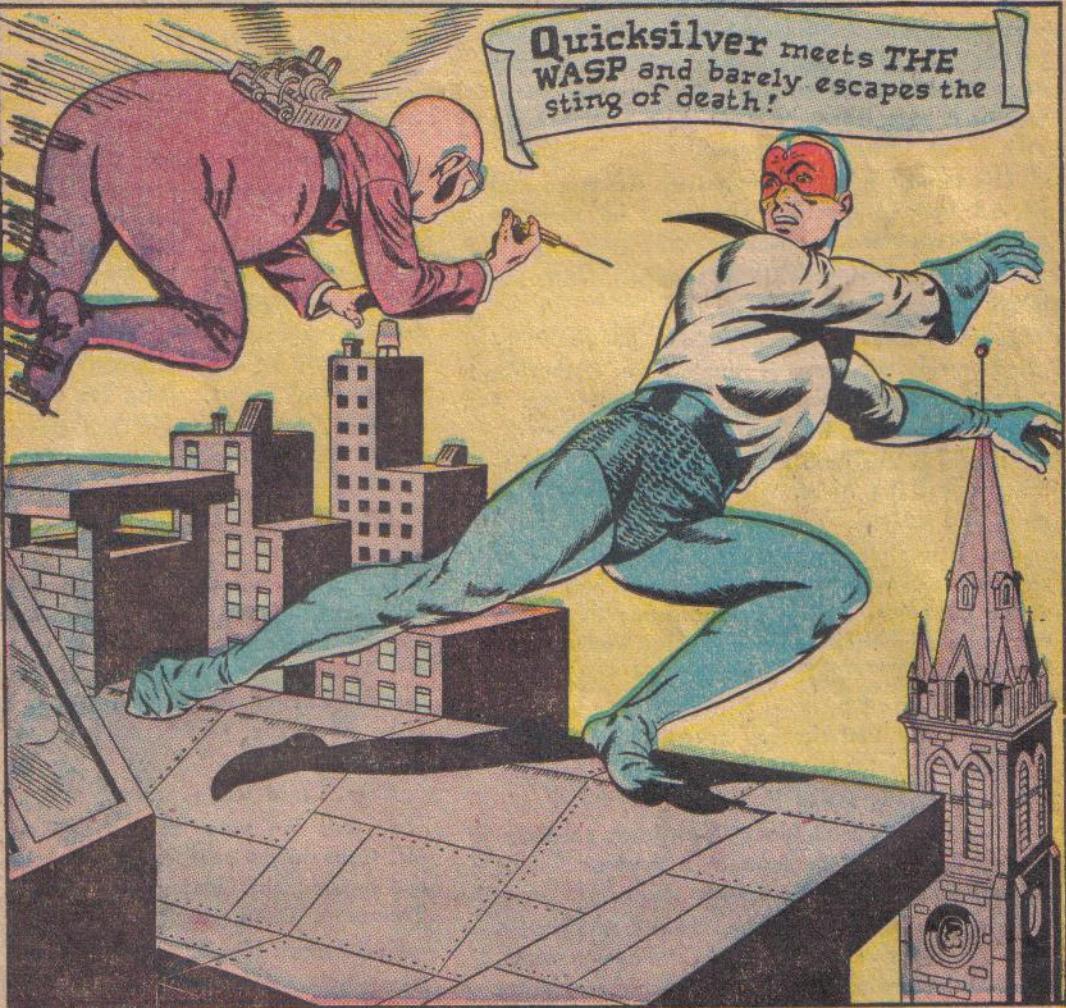
Meggs whirled, his eyes blazing in the glow of greenness.

Before he could speak, several shots rang out from the direction of the river. Then the deck was swept by the ship's powerful searchlight. It caught the bandits standing in various attitudes of complete surprise.

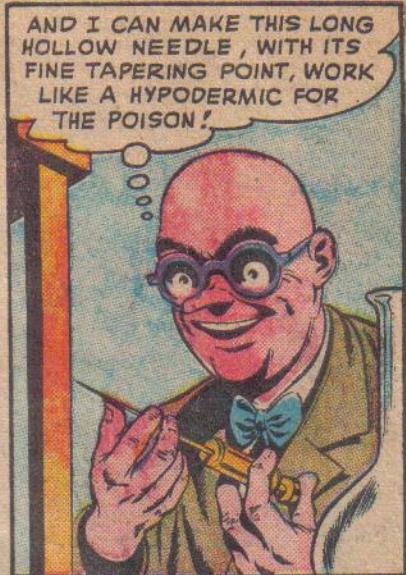
Over the rail poured a dozen river policemen. They had worked their boat up noiselessly to the side of the ship. It was a complete coup. The police covered the shaggy men and disarmed them. In a moment they were helpless prisoners.

"Well," said the barker, "that's the first time Colonel Lane's Mammoth Circus used fireworks to foil a bunch of pirates."

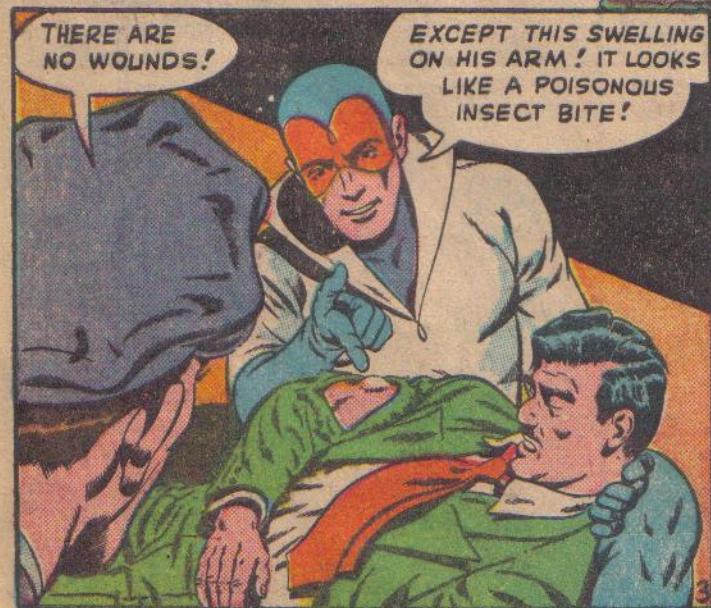
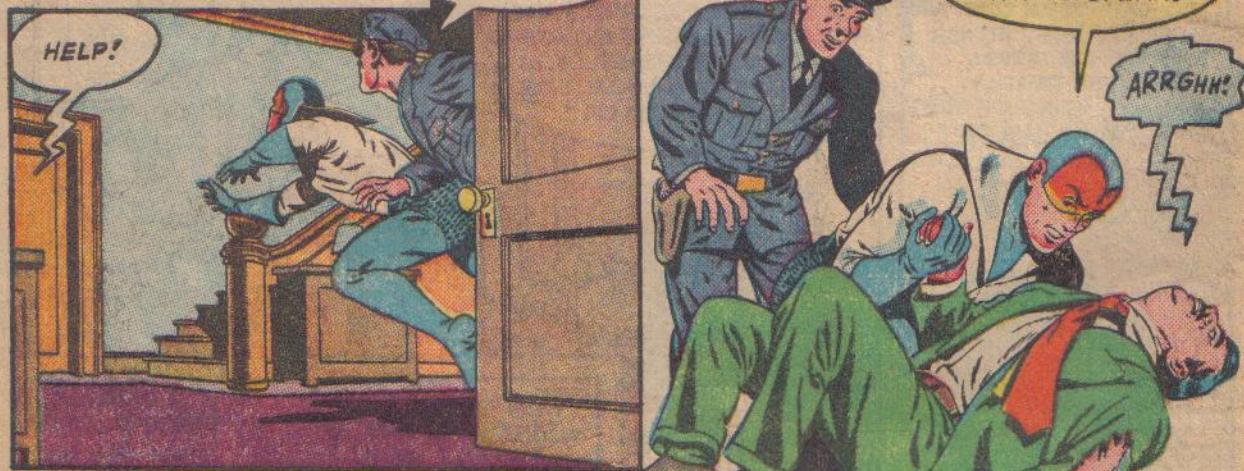
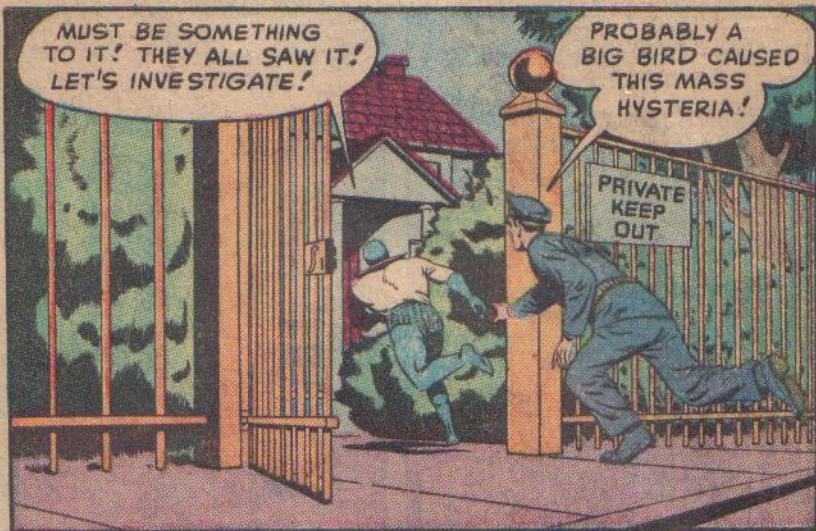
QUICKSILVER



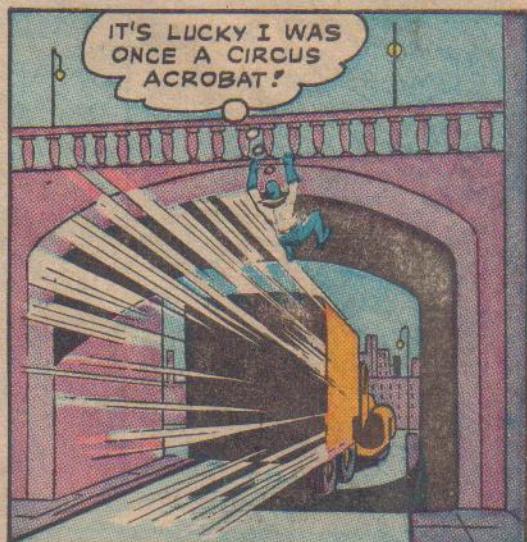
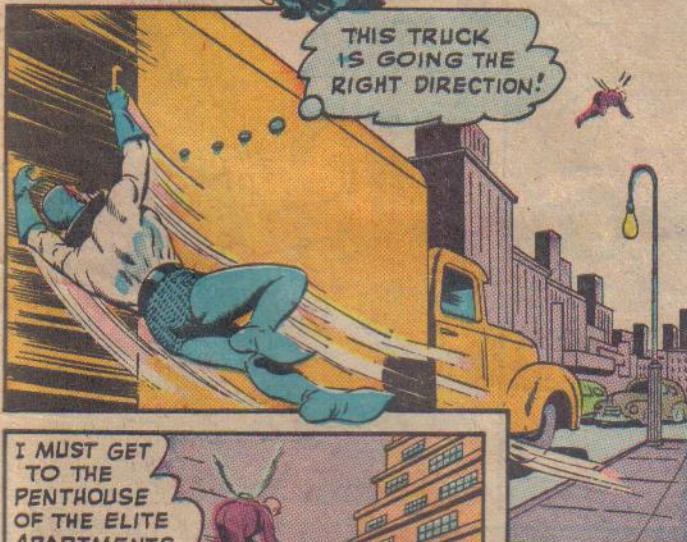
NATIONAL COMICS



NATIONAL COMICS

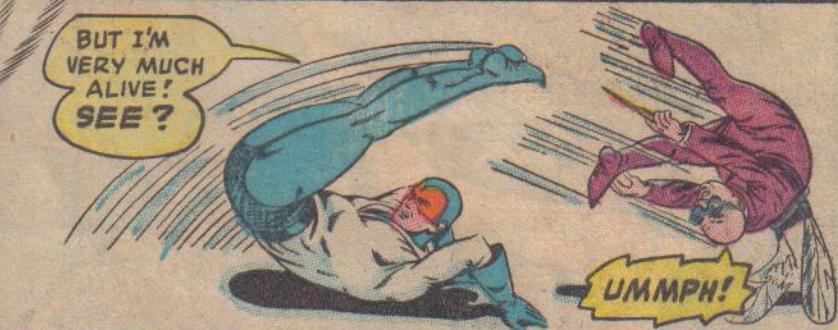
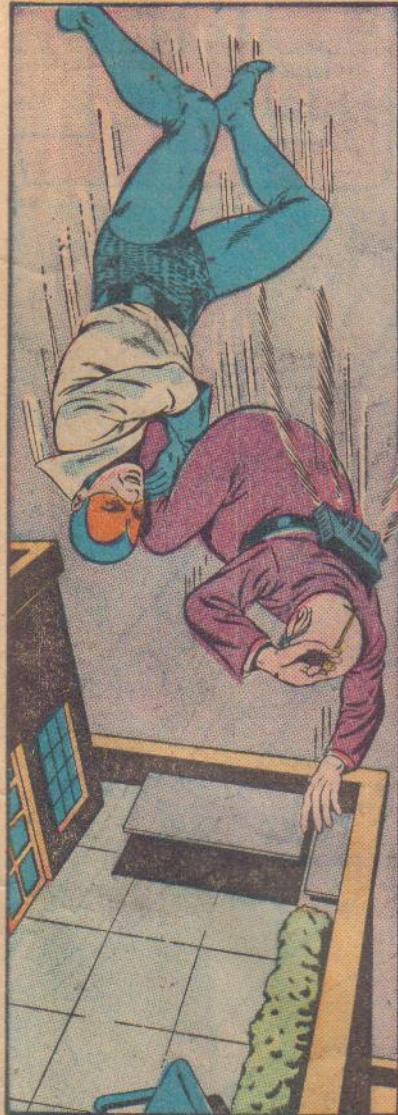


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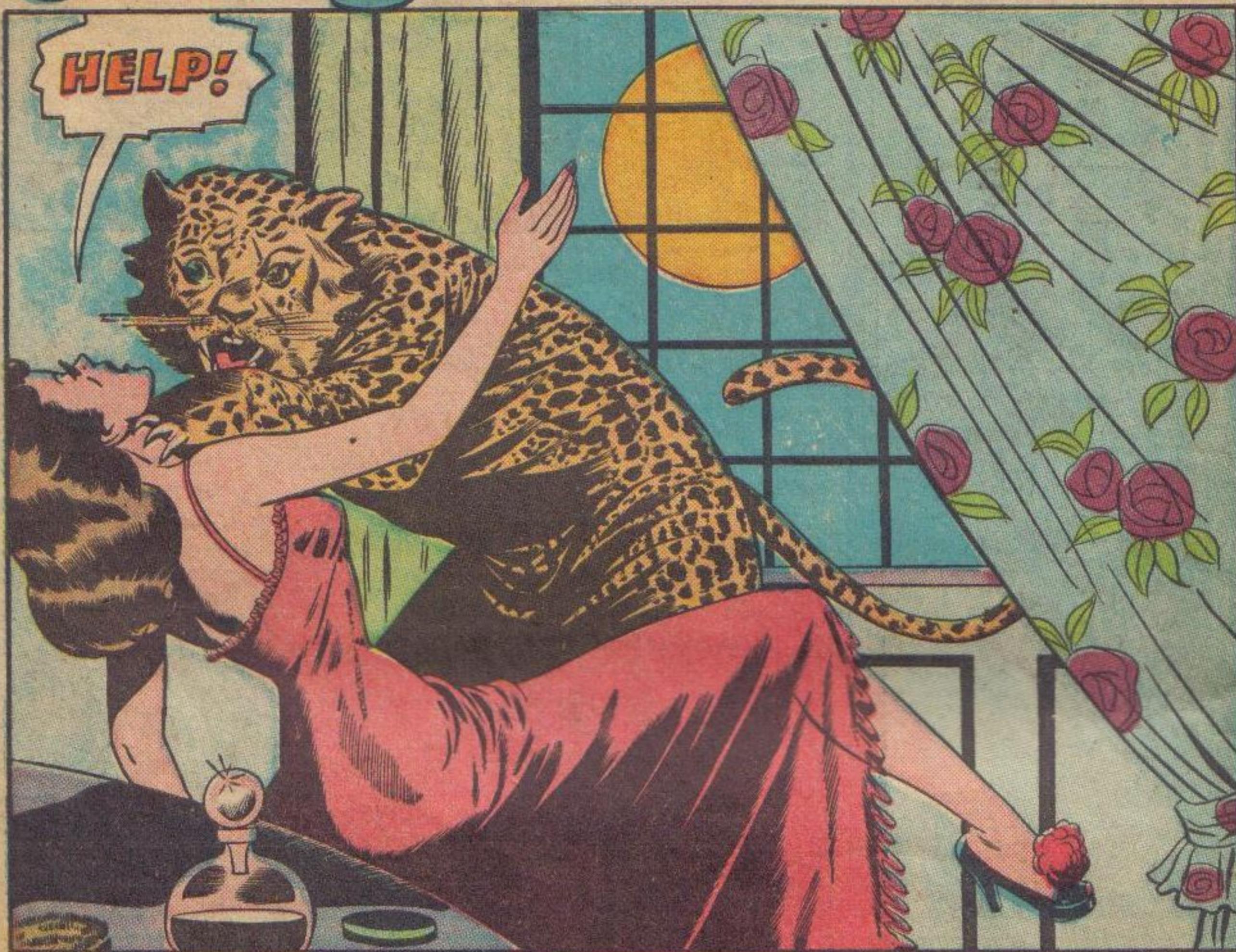


WHEN YOU DO BUSINESS FROM NOW ON, REMEMBER THAT THERE IS AN ANTIDOTE FOR GREED... GENEROSITY!



NATIONAL COMICS

Sally O'NEIL



Thus ended a night of terror for Sally O'Neil, Policewoman, after a man-beast left a trail of blood which led to her very door!
But who was the LEOPARD MAN?

It all began many miles away...

ANOTHER LETTER FROM SANDERS! EACH COMES FROM A DIFFERENT CITY, WITH A POST-OFFICE BOX FOR RETURN ADDRESS!

WELL, THIS IS THE ANSWER HE'S GETTING FROM ME!

I don't have the money you demand. I am sending a check for two hundred dollars. Of this all I have. If this keeps up, I'll find you and kill you. *Hanick*

"FIND YOU AND KILL YOU"? WHY NOT? AFTER NINE YEARS OF TORMENT, WHY NOT?

A few nights later, Sally O'Neil attends the theatre...

AN EXCELLENT ANIMAL ACT!

YES! HE WAS ALWAYS GOOD WITH CATS!

WELL, BACK TO THE BEAT!

SANDU IS SANDERS, ALL RIGHT! I'VE FOUND HIM... NOW I'M GOING TO KILL HIM! I'VE LAID MY PLANS CAREFULLY!

SALLY, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE! GO TO THE STAR THEATRE... THERE'S A LEOPARD ON THE LOOSE!

WHAT?

This week
mammoth stage show
featuring
SANDU
THE LEOPARD MAN

NATIONAL COMICS

I JUST GOT THE CALL?
I'M SENDING THE ENTIRE
FORCE ON A BIG-GAME
HUNT!

I LEFT THERE
LESS THAN AN
HOUR AGO! BUT
BACK I GO!

I'M SALLY O'NEIL FROM
POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
I WANT TO SEE...

I'M SANDU! I'VE
BEEN EXPECTING
YOU!

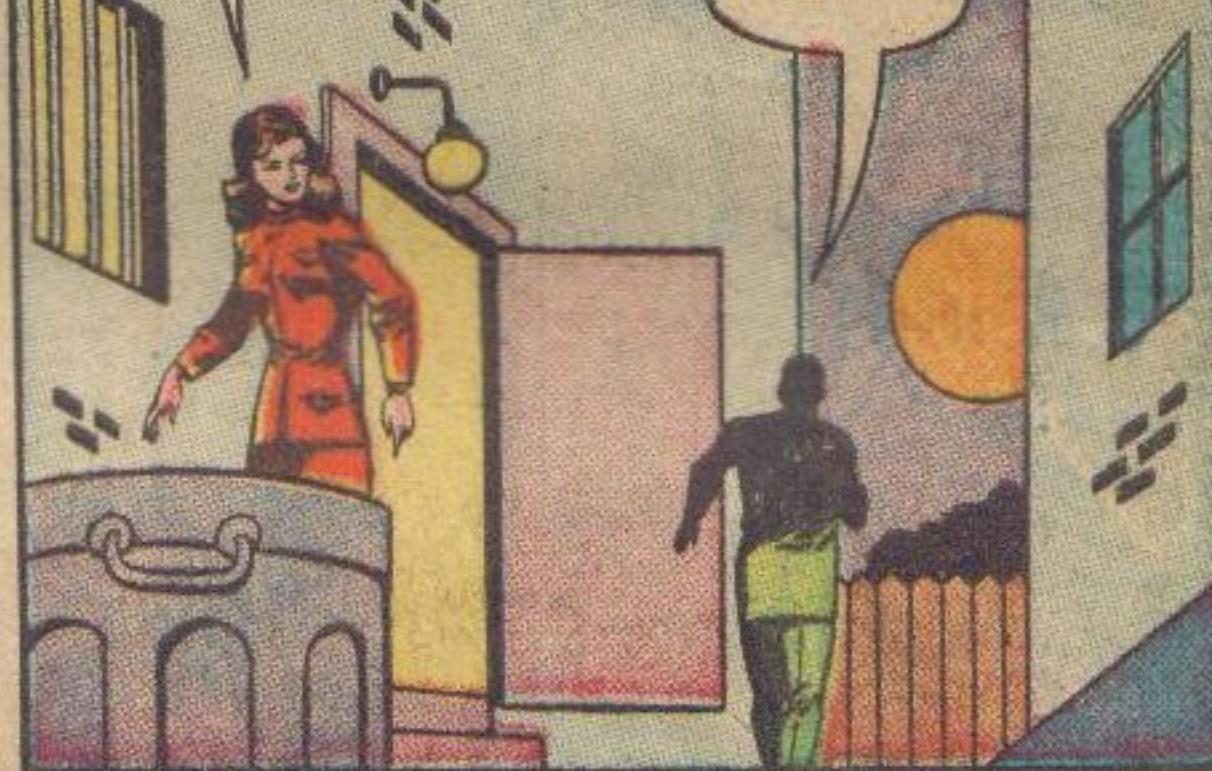
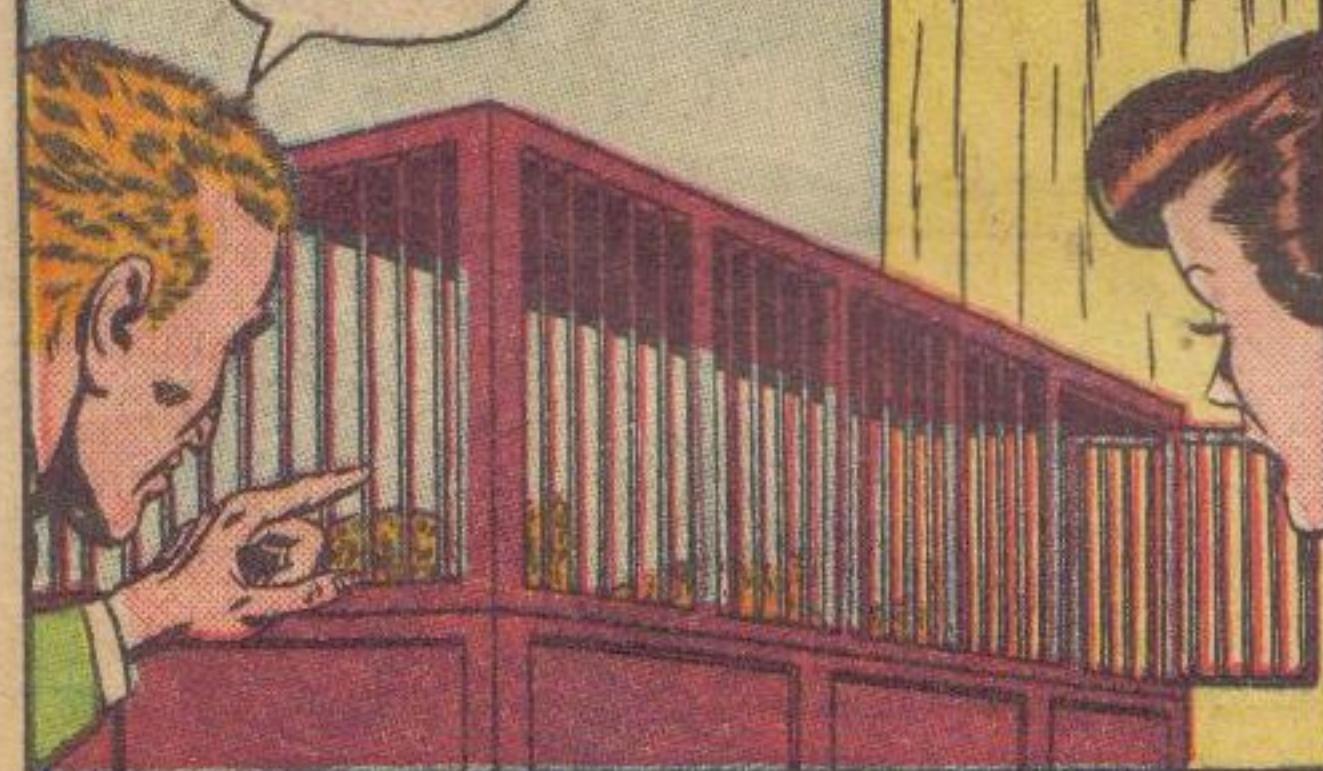


AFTER MY PERFORMANCE, I
WENT TO MY DRESSING ROOM
AND CHANGED CLOTHES! MY
CAGE BOY WENT OUT TO
EAT! WHEN HE RETURNED
--- THE LEOPARD WAS
GONE!

YOU'D BETTER
HOP ON HIM
FOR NEGLIGENCE!

I HOPE WE
CAN CAPTURE
THE ANIMAL
ALIVE!

ALICE WOULDN'T HARM
ANYONE! SHE'S AS GENTLE
AS A KITTEN! SHE'S A
LOVABLE AND VALUABLE
BEAST... THAT'S WHY
I'M WORRIED ABOUT
HER!



HAINES!

SANDERS, YOUR
BLACKMAIL RACKET
WENT TOO FAR! NOW
I'M GOING TO KILL
YOU! I TURNED
YOUR LEOPARD
LOOSE TO TAKE
THE BLAME!

YOU WERE MY CAGE BOY
WHEN MY PARTNER WAS
KILLED IN THE ACT! YOU
SAW TOO MUCH.... I'VE BEEN
PAYING EVER SINCE! YOU
EVEN TOOK MY ACT, BUT
YOU'VE GIVEN YOUR LAST
PERFORMANCE!



HERE'S MY CHECK.
BUT I MUST FIND MY
LETTER, TOO! IT
COULD BE USED
AS EVIDENCE
AGAINST ME!





NATIONAL COMICS

HE DROPPED A... WHAT'S THIS? HMM... IT APPEARS SANDU'S BEEN BLACK-MAILING SOMEONE NAMED HAINES!

SANDU! COME BACK! YOU'RE ON IN THREE MINUTES!

OH... ER... SURE!

I USED TO HANDLE AN ANIMAL ACT! I'LL DO IT! THEN I CAN LEAVE UNNOTICED WHEN IT'S OVER!



TH-THEY FOUND THE LEOPARD!

YOU SEEM UPSET! COULD IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS NOTE YOU DROPPED?

Alice

GRRRR!



GIVE THAT TO ME!

SANDU! I WENT TO CALL YOU... AND... LON IS IN YOUR DRESSING ROOM... DEAD!



SANDU... STOP!



KELLY, QUICK! STOP SANDU!

HE'S BEEN STOPPED, SALLY... BY THE LEOPARD! WE FOUND HIM... CLAWED TO DEATH!



OUR KILLER IS NOT GENTLE ALICE! BUT IT COULD BE HAINES, THE WRITER OF THIS NOTE!

TWO MEN HAVE BEEN MURDERED AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MURDERER LOOKS LIKE... OR WHERE TO FIND HIM!



NATIONAL COMICS

THEN WE MUST ARRANGE FOR HIM TO COME TO US! DO AS I SAY, KELLY, AND WE MAY SOON CATCH OUR KILLER!



I KNOW I'M BEING FOLLOWED! THAT'S WHY I KEPT TO WELL-LIGHTED STREETS! I HOPE KELLY DOESN'T FAIL ME!



I FOLLOWED YOU HERE TO GET THAT NOTE! HAND IT OVER!



I---I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

YES, YOU DO! GIVE IT TO ME OR I'LL KILL YOU!

HELP!



WE GOT HIM!

SALLY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



A few minutes later...

HE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO TELL THE WHOLE STORY! NOW I UNDERSTAND!

IT WORKED OUT JUST THE WAY YOU SAID IT WOULD, SALLY! BUT YOU SURE TOOK A CHANCE!



I STILL DON'T GET IT, HIS KILLIN' THE LEOPARD MAN! WASN'T HE THE LEOPARD MAN?

THERE WERE TWO LEOPARD MEN.... A BLACKMAILER AND A MURDERER! BUT NOW THEY'VE BOTH CHANGED THEIR SPOTS... FOR GOOD!



WOW!

LOOK AT JOE GO ON
HIS NEW BIKE!



SURE,
IT'S GOT A NEW

Bendix
COASTER BRAKE!

DAD SAYS BENDIX MAKES
BRAKES FOR CARS, TRUCKS AND
PLANES, TOO!



NO WONDER JOE'S
BIKE PEDALS EASIER,
COASTS LONGER
AND STOPS
QUICKER!



If you want the latest and finest coaster brake, be sure that your new bike has a Bendix Coaster Brake. It is made by America's leading brake manufacturer and has all kinds of new features. You'll find bicycle riding a lot more fun with a Bendix Coaster Brake!

JUST LOOK AT THESE FEATURES

Longer life — Dependable performance — Fewer parts — Easy to put together and take apart — Sealed against dirt and water.

LOOK
for the
NAME



ECLIPSE MACHINE DIVISION of
ELMIRA, NEW YORK

Bendix
AVIATION CORPORATION

"U.S. ROYAL"

WITH HIS

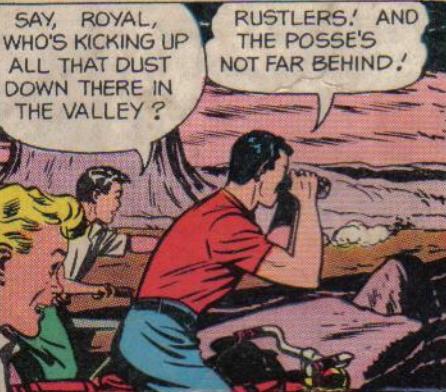
JET-PROPELLED BIKE



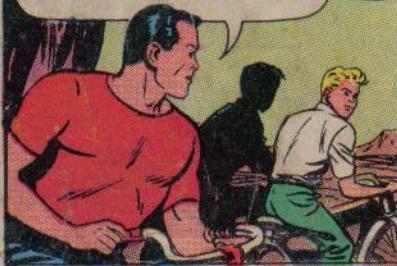
"ROUNDING UP
THE RUSTLERS"



WHILE VACATIONING OUT WEST, DEPUTY U.S. ROYAL AND THE BOYS OF THE ELM CITY BIKE CLUB ARE ENJOYING THE SIGHTS, WHEN SUDDENLY...



FELLAS, YOU TWO BIKE DOWN AND TELL THE POSSE TO HEAD FOR THE GORGE... I'LL HAVE A NICE SURPRISE THERE WAITING FOR THEM!



NOW IF I CAN JUST GET TO THE TOP OF THAT GORGE BEFORE THOSE CATTLE-THEIVES GET TO THE BOTTOM!



I MADE IT! THESE ROCKS WILL FORCE THEM TO TURN BACK... RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THE POSSE!



BOYS, LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE PUT AN END TO THIS RUSTLIN' RACKET... THAT WAS MIGHTY FAST WORK ON YOUR PART!

YOU MEAN MIGHTY FAST BIKING... THANKS TO OUR U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES!



FELLAS, SPEED AND SAFETY ARE REALLY "BUILT INTO" U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES-- WITH THEIR SPECIAL BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN.



"TAKE MY TIP ON BIKE TIRES-- TAKE THE TIRE WITH THE BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN"... SAYS U.S. ROYAL



IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE OF FIRM FOOTING... SAFE, QUICK STOPS... MAXIMUM MILEAGE... PERFECT CONTROL-- BE SURE TO GET U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES. THAT SPECIAL BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN MAKES THEM TOPS IN TIRES.

**U.S.
BIKE TIRES**

America's Fastest Selling Tires



UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY
Serving Through Science